

Victoria Street Newz

December 05/January 06

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to help end poverty & homelessness

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“All the
news
that
fits,
we
print!”

*May money from the sale of this newspaper be used
towards peace, and pass through healing hands.*

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Vol. 2 No. 4

Peace ? on Earth ??

The Turning Point

*History says, Don't hope
On this side of the grave.
But then, once in a lifetime
The longed for tidal wave
Of Justice can rise up
And hope and history rhyme*

*So hope for a great sea change
On the far side of revenge
Believe that a further shore
Is reachable from here
Believe in miracles
And cures and healing wells*

Seamus Heaney, from *The Cure at Troy*

Just before the tide turns, the sea appears deceptively quiet. Then rushing fingers of water appear on the shore, signaling that a massive change is already on its way.

In spite of the news of brutal warfare in Iraq, Darfur, Afghanistan, and 26 other war zones, there are signs everywhere that the tide has begun to turn from violence and oppression toward justice. The millions of people who marched in 2003 against the Iraq war, revealed a new global consciousness that each one of us has an obligation to the other, not only to resolve our differences non-violently, but also to protect and restore our fragile planet. Behind the millions who marched, there were millions more working for justice in other ways.

A new report from the Human Security Centre at UBC issued on October 17, 2005 not only confirms this impression, it documents that the world has been moving away from war and genocide, with a rapid acceleration in the past decade. The *Human Security Report*, a comprehensive three-year study led by Professor Andrew Mack, was supported by five governments and published by Oxford University Press. It can be downloaded at www.humansecurityreport.info.

The *Report* shows surprising evidence of major declines in armed conflicts, genocides, human rights abuse, military coups and international crises, worldwide. It notes that over the past thirty years sixty dictators were toppled, and the number of armed conflicts has dropped 40% since 1992. “The deadliest conflicts (those with 1000 or more battle-deaths) dropped even more dramatically -- by 80%.” Arms transfers are down, and so are human rights abuses.

Unfortunately, the *Report* does not include deaths that are the indirect result of war, especially war that destroys civil infrastructure such as water treatment plants, sewage disposal and electric generating systems. The deaths resulting from sanctions imposed on Iraq are also not mentioned. The Human Security Centre plans to research the indirect casualties of war in 2006.

The *Report* attributes the unheralded decline of war deaths to a dramatic increase in UN conflict prevention and peace building efforts, and also credits the efforts of thousands of NGOs working in the field of war prevention and disarmament. The evidence is a surprising contrast to the impression given by mainstream media where the focus is on conflict and violence. In fact, the common guideline for editors and producers is “if it bleeds, it leads”. Their lens has made them blind to the reality of global change.

Although the *Report* does not focus on the transformative role of civil society in the shift away from war and violence, the increasing influence of civil society on the UN has characterized the last twenty years. The number of NGOs accredited with the UN has increased from 40 at the outset to 40,000 today, and they have become important participants in deliberations of the UN.

It was civil society that initiated the Treaty to Ban Landmines, and the World Court Project that led to the Court giving its legal opinion that “in general nuclear weapons are not legal under international law”. Civil society initiated the campaign for the International Criminal Court, and has been a driving force for human rights and justice.

Our work is far from finished. The continued presence of 35,000 nuclear weapons -- with over 4,000 on high alert -- holds the world in a precarious state where an accidental or intentional launch could still cause a nuclear war. The goal of the US Space Command for the “full spectrum military domination of the planet from outer space, for the protection of US interests and investments” is so far out of step with the rest of the world that it would seem bizarre, were it not so dangerous.

What is clear, however, is that in working for peace and justice, we are with the majority in the world, and *we are succeeding*. As the tide is turning, the vision of a world without war -- an idealistic dream for centuries -- has now become a realizable goal.

Written by Mary-Wynne Ashford, MD, Past President of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and Past President of the Canadian affiliate, Physicians for Global Survival. She has retired from Family Practice and Palliative Care, and is an Adjunct Professor at UVic. Her book with Guy Dauncey, *Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror, and War*, will be released in June by New Society Publishers (www.newsociety.com). Mary-Wynne is a member of an advisory board for Vancouver's 2006 Peace Conference. Send your comments to mashford@uvic.ca. *An earlier version of this article appeared in Physicians for Global Survival (Canada) Turning Point, Winter 2005.*

Trackside Art Gallery was formerly a waste dump, in an area where violence would repeatedly occur, until Rock Solid and the HRCC employed 8 youth to develop and build the Gallery. Info: rocksolid.ca/programs/tag.html.



Nadia St. Amand "Too Late"

This painting is abstract, so its significance totally depends on the viewer. The horizon is curved, meaning the world is running out of space and the trees have been clear-cut. The city is replacing it and melting into the sky. I feel there is little space to hide from this. The ball in the middle is a supernova.

About Street Newz

“Building Bridges within our Downtown Community”

The **Victoria Street Newz** mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like the sliding-scale method of donations because it offers folks a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the **Victoria Street Newz** coalition and vendors, and by reading information that informs you directly about poverty and homeless issues. Please consider purchasing another copy later in the month, for a friend.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (for confirmation), and may be edited for length.

Opinions expressed in this newzpaper are not necessarily those of **Victoria Street Newz**, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

Victoria Street Newz is printed on 100% post consumer recycled paper with vegetable ink, at Horizon Publications. (www.horizonpublications.ca, 604-254-8840)

Submissions, contributions, and donations for Victoria Street Newz can be delivered to:

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V8V 3P6
250-413-3235

streetnewz@islandnet.com
http://streetnewz.communitypipe.org

Victoria Street Newz is a project of the Bread and Roses Collective - a not-for-profit Society whose purposes are to relieve poverty and advance educational opportunities for socially disadvantaged and/or economically marginalized people.

For more information, or to receive a copy of the constitution and bylaws, please write to streetnewz@islandnet.com or call 413-3235.

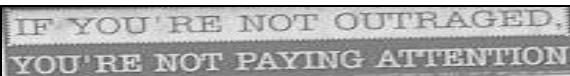
One way to support the Bread and Roses Collective, is to donate to Vancity account #484824, branch #42.

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a few dayz in the life of the street newz coordinator.

Friday, October 21st, 2005



Today began like many other days. I woke up around 7, started the computer, put my chinese herbs on for tea, and stepped into morning shower. While checking email, I listened to Betsy's 'Not-For-Profit Radio,' and caught the first few minutes of Medhi's 'Hidden News' on CFUV. I balanced 200 newspapers and a tent on my bike, and headed downtown. The tent's for a new Street Newz vendor who quit a construction job because of the equipment rental fee deducted from his paycheque.

It was a beautiful 'Indian' summer day, and I stopped to pick up a dvd of Andrew's *Love and Fearlessness* documentary from a friend. Perfect timing, I thought, as I rode to City Hall to leave it for Charlayne. We'd been communicating via email about the tent city, and I hoped it would broaden her perspective. When I got to City Hall I discovered it was the Mayor's 'Open Door' day, and some of the tent city inhabitants were gathered in the lobby. I said a quick hello to Andrew, asked Sarah if she'd contacted her dad (who had written to me asking about her), waved hello to the mayor who was ushering some business people into his office, and chatted briefly with Charlayne who had already seen the video and assured me she's supporting the latest attempt at a community garden.

As I left the building I crossed paths with another of the tent city campers who suggested I should stay and watch what was about to go down inside. I tried to explain that I would like to stay, but I was scheduled to meet with the vendors for a newspaper exchange. They depend on me being where I say I'm going to be twice a week. The tent city supporter became angry and said everything changes when you get a paycheque. I didn't have time to explain. Yes, the Street Newz provides for my simple existence and no, I simply can't be everywhere. Making sure the vendors have newspapers in their hands is definitely a priority. I didn't know about the City Hall convergence until I got there that morning. The Street Newz succeeds when people decide to 'be the media.' If you see something happening take some notes, write it up, and submit it for publishing. It'd definitely be boring if I were the only SNZ writer!

At noon I cycled to Fernwood to get the Car Share truck and help Peter move his possessions from UVic. It was a very interesting couple of hours. Since I had the truck I stopped at Vancity, dropped a computer disk off for vendors living at one of the motels, bought \$20 worth of gas in about 13.5 seconds, re-parked the truck in its space, and rode my bike back to my home office. Within an hour a friend arrived with some RAM. The day before he had cleaned up the hard drive, removing stuff that had been planted on my computer while I was surfing the net. What a difference! I made him dinner, got another hour's work in and, about 7:30, quit for the day. The union insisted on it. *Note to self: pay union dues.*

Saturday, October 22nd. On my way to visit Tre Arrow at Wilkinson Prison, I rode by the new Mountain Equipment Co-op. I wondered about the wisdom of investing in a block long wilderness equipment store on an island where a million+ cubic metres of raw logs are extracted each year, some of it ancient forest.

I'd never visited Wilkie before. It was definitely different from my visit with Betty Krawczyk at Burnaby's Women's Prison. Betty and I were allowed to speak freely, and I was able to tape our conversation. Unfortunately, I found out later, the deck didn't work properly so I couldn't air it. When I called Wilkie for permission to tape a conversation with Tre, I received the following message:

"Recording devices aren't permitted on site, but you are more than welcome to bring in a pencil or a pen and paper to take any dictation. I'm sorry that our policies are such, but for security reasons..."

I couldn't imagine what sort of security risk a tape recorder might offer, but I didn't argue too much. There was no point. At least I could take notes. When I got to Wilkie, though, the front desk people had no record of this prior approval, and security asked me to lock everything up, take off my shoes, and go through the metal detector. I complied. On the other side of the metal detector there's another waiting room, with a coke machine. Visitors can bring coca-cola products to the prisoners. After allowing us enough time to feed the machine, we were taken to a row of cubicles with telephones and window panes, just like something one might see in a Jodie Foster movie. Kathy kindly brought a pen and paper.

I hadn't met Tre, but I'd heard good things about him from friends. He was dressed all in red. It reminded me of Margaret Atwood's Handmaid's Tale. Tre looked a lot healthier than I thought he would, and he has fairly long hair-a tiny bit of freedom, I thought. I'm sure Tre could have talked for hours, about being a political prisoner, about his philosophical and spiritual beliefs, about food issues and almost starving to death before the provincially funded corrections unit provided for his raw vegan diet. Tre has been vegan for over a decade, and a raw food vegan for over 5 years before being imprisoned. How difficult can it be, I wondered, to offer up some raw fruit and vegetables? Tre ended up in hospital for almost a month because his dietary requests weren't honoured and, he says, "I'm still suffering the residual effects and damage I experienced because of being so taxed at the mature state of starvation."

When I asked Tre "why are you here," he somehow managed to furrow his brow and smile at the same time. Eventually he said "it's not an easy answer. The FBI is trying to silence me, make an example of me because I'm an effective activist who has caught international attention." Tre insists he hasn't hurt anybody. His philosophy is about non-violence towards all beings, ahimsa, and he has a deep regard for the earth. "I wouldn't burn plastics and tires, which is what the charges are."

The arson incidents, for which he's being punished, happened a full year before Tre's indictment. "They had a year not only to arrest me, but to question me. They had more than a year to question me." Tre is clearly a victim of the new anti-terrorist laws implemented after the September 11th tragedy, which happened during the year Tre wasn't questioned. If he's convicted, he could get life imprisonment.

I tried not to think of what might happen if Tre is extradited to the U.S. We talked, instead, about what's really criminal, and what's really just. Tre told me that Telus holds the monopoly on phones in the prison, and it costs \$.90 for each local call which is automatically disconnected if there is any interruption on the line, and after 30 minutes. Long distance is \$10 for each half hour. I gave him my phone number.

Sunday, October 23rd. After an hour of quiet reflection at the Friends' meetinghouse I took some photos of the Food Not Bombs crew for next year's Faith in Action calendar, and checked on 94 year old Kay Dixon in acute care at the Jubilee Hospital. I learned that they're brushing patients' teeth with mouthwash because there's no money for toothpaste, and there are doctors working 5 weeks in a row without a break. I heard that VIHA management gave themselves a 30% raise just days after the HEU went back last year, after the almost general strike. The nurses' contract is up early next year.

Monday, October 24th. Built the weekly Left Coast events email, did some laundry, cooked some food.

Tuesday, October 25th. Checked in with the vendors, then spent a couple of hours in the courthouse listening to the trials of David Johnston and the Tent City crew. The latter was upstairs in the Supreme Courtroom where Catherine Boies Parker was citing Human Rights law in Canada's Charter, the UN's Document on Human Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights which the Canadian Government has signed onto. We all have the right to adequate housing, which is essential for life, liberty, and security of person, and the state is obligated to provide adequate shelter if none exists otherwise. Cathy said it's unjust to punish people for something that is not an autonomous choice, and offensive to punish them without providing another option.

Clearly, it's not all good, and there's no shortage of work for activists concerned about improving our collective quality of life. Hopefully Cindy's efforts to implement a guaranteed livable income will be successful. Tomorrow is Wednesday, the day I volunteer with the kids at the Y. It scares me, sometimes, to think where they might end up in another 20 years, and what the earth might look like if and when they get there.

Season's Greetings, everybody!!

thoughts

It felt like a Monday morning. It was an overcast, dark gray sky. It was raining. BC's monsoon season was well under way. CBC radio was broadcasting that the buses weren't running and all the public libraries were closed. The fact that it was a Monday morning didn't help at all. Nor did it help that the Premier was not willing to negotiate in good faith with the teachers of BC who were striking.

The teachers' number one demand was smaller class sizes so that all the students could have a desk.

Many thousands of people, both teachers and their supporters, gathered at city hall before noon, then walked to the legislative buildings where the rally listened to speeches before dispersing peacefully.

Written by Robin Kingsley

BC Child Care over \$50 million cut...
nothing to celebrate.

To: Wayne Strelieff, Auditor General, Province of B.C.

As auditor General I know you are concerned with taxpayers' money. For years greedy building owners have been keeping damage deposits, often in defiance of Residential Tenancy arbitrators clear orders. If an arbitrator rules in favor of a tenant, the tenant is then expected to go through small claims in Provincial court in order to retrieve their money, a double burden on the taxpayers, and court time is horrendously expensive.

I have written about this to the Premier, the Solicitor General, the Attorney General, the newly elected MLA here in Esquimalt, and various media reporters. You should understand they realize there is a problem and have encouraged me to continue my effort to have the legislation changed to make life easier for tenants who have been victimized. Welfare recipients are forced to go to their workers, get a second or third damage deposit and have the amount of the previous deposit monies deducted from their monthly allotment. They do not have the resources or the patience to wait as long as two years in small claims court.

I want to hear from you, not from an assistant or anyone else. I will be speaking about this issue during the upcoming municipal election campaign and I would very much like to be able to say that you had the courtesy to correspond with me.

Ken Frenette

Teachers' Rally - Oct 17th, 2005



Photo by Janine Bandcroft

If schools were oil companies...

Why is it that when teachers ask for more money for schools and a small pay increase for themselves, we have to go through all of this mess...

But when the oil companies want more money (on top of already record profits), they just raise their prices and too bad for all the rest of us. If we want access to our own Canadian oil, we have to pay the oil industry what it demands, no questions asked.

'Our' governments take no action. There are no supreme court decisions. There is no comment in the media. There are no 'illegal' actions. The oil companies have the 'right' to charge us what they want for OUR oil, and then take our money and give it to those who 'own' the industry, mostly foreigners.

But when it comes to money for our schools the government changes the rules to make it illegal. The media never asks the real questions. And the courts support the status quo.

I think these are questions we should be thinking about because it goes to the heart of who is running our country and what our society is all about. Why can the oil companies do what they want to us. Why are working people so tightly controlled. Why is profit always good, pay increases always impossible to afford?

Here in BC, a 10 cent per litre increase in the price of gas means almost \$300 million a year out of our pockets and into the pockets of the oil companies. (assuming 1 1/2 million vehicles in BC, each driving 12,000 miles a year, getting 25 mpg)

This is more than enough money to solve the schools problem in BC ... and we've given all the money to the oil companies. Aren't we nice.

Jack Etkin

The Smell of Money

There really is the smell of money in this only unceded province of Canada, now called British Columbia. I have noticed that there is more logging than usual. Most of the logs I have seen on the logging trucks are very ancient trees, these ancient trees are something you will never see in your lifetime ever again. Nor will your grandchildren ever see huge trees like these again. Many of the small creeks and rivers have dried up, as you can only see dried up rock beds, where there use to be running waters. This in turn also leaves the fish very homeless also, with no where to make their spawning beds, for the fish to come back to. All of a sudden, everything that was once living in every nook and cranny of Mother Earth, has a huge dollar sign on their heads. Kill everything, just to make some people rich, for a short while.

If a white person had to live on a reservation system, as the indigenous people have to today, the white person would not be able to survive or live out his life on the reservation system. As they would be denied everything they now take for granted, such as a nice home to live in, hydro and electricity, a telephone, a computer, food, clean water, good health, and many more things. To make ends meet, the indigenous person has to sell salmon. The selling of salmon helps to pay for other kinds of food such as rice, bread, fruits and vegetables, hydro, gas, maybe a telephone and or a computer. The ones who are to blame for the missing fish should be the ones to go after. They are the logging companys, the mining companys, and the pulp mill companys, and many others much like them.

Many of the indigenous people of this only unceded province of Canada, have no jobs at all, no jobs what so ever, as there is so much discrimination and racism involved in any kind of job related skills. If an indigenous person does have a job in the white mans world today, than they are paid a slave labour wages, of which they cannot even feed their families or keep a home of their own. Their slave labour wages is not enough to buy a home of their own or a car of their own. Their slave labour wages, is far under the normal low paying jobs or minimum wages. Under international laws this is considered as discrimination and racism. I wonder when this part of the world will begin to understand that international laws and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are laws to protect us as Indigenous people and as HUMAN BEINGS.

Many of us have rights that we do not even know about. The highest laws is the right laws, which is the CREATORS laws. The Creators laws is Natural law. With natural laws we existed without any problems for thousands and thousands of years. Only since man made laws began, on our sacred lands, less than a hundred years ago, have we seen so many disasters and the destruction of our Mother The Earth. During this destructive process, we have been silenced in every way. It's about time we open up our mouths and begin to protect our Mother Earth. Every living being on this earth, is now at risk. Time is of the essence and as human beings we have so much time on our hands, every day. It's time to open up your mouth and help to protect OUR Mother Earth.

Helen Michell, bearclanofmaxanlake.bravehost.com/

Not a Failure

If one experiences clinical depression for a few months at a time, and/or on a constant basis for a good portion of one's life, there is no joy and one feels there is no hope. One cannot visualize the light at the end of the tunnel, since the tunnel itself is not visible. One can live with it daily, cope as best they can, often have relapses, which, at times can take up to a year, or longer with trial and error with medication to feel improved.

It is an illness I cannot imagine anyone would choose for themselves. It is an illness, part of "one's package." Fortunate is the individual involved who has family, close friends and co-workers who do not judge the person and can accept it has nothing to do with weakness. Unfortunately for some, the struggle is too difficult, demands too much and takes too much.

As Dr. Milliken mentioned - such deaths are not personal failure.

"Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood." Marie Curie

This is a very old letter to the editor which I sent in and to my surprise, they chose to publish it. However, it applies to so much more than suicide-it applies to compassion and judgment-negative judgment. This remains an issue with mental illness and certainly with street people, addicts, and so forth.

In my view, no one has the right to be "superior" and judge and criticize-until one walks in their shoes, they have no comprehension of the situation-although, many do - something to be so very grateful for.

Vicki Munch



Busy serving and protecting Victoria, this police officer offered to confiscate my camera. Subsequent legal council advises that we all have the right to photograph scenes like this as long as we don't interrupt police business - which I wasn't.

in the newz

Burnside Gorge Community Centre Christmas Hampers

We assist families who may not receive help from any other source over the holidays. Often these families are the "working poor", or families who "fall through the cracks" of the system. Our hope is to provide Christmas hampers to as many of these families in the community as possible.

Last year we were able to provide over 40 families with a Christmas Hamper and Christmas Gifts.

If you are interested in discussing what helping looks like to you, please contact Dorothy at 388-5251 or email dorothy-bgca@shaw.ca.

St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Hamper Program

During the Christmas holiday period the Social Concern Office works in co-ordination with the Christmas Bureau and operates a Christmas Hamper and Toy Room. Hundreds of families and singles are assisted with Christmas food vouchers, and many children are provided with Christmas gifts from our Toy Room. In order to get on the Christmas Bureau list a person must fill out a Christmas Bureau application. However, as names are randomly assigned to various agencies, individuals cannot be assured that it will be our Society that is helping them at Christmas. It could be another charitable organization that will be assisting them.

St. Vincent de Paul Social Concern Office, 828 View St. 250.382.0712

KAIROS launches national Water: Life before Profit campaign.

We believe that water is a sacred gift connecting all life. The world is facing a growing freshwater crisis. Water is becoming a profit-maker for some, and something that's impossible to afford for others. Every time we drain a wetland or pollute a river, we make the problem worse for everyone.

In the face of this crisis, water must remain in public hands throughout the world. It should not be turned into a commodity for private profit. Only through democratic, community control of public water systems will all people keep or win access to clean water. Guarding water as a common good will ensure fair access while respecting treaty rights and international human rights agreements.

Join with KAIROS and all its members in the ecumenical social justice campaign Water: Life Before Profit!

Promote (and sign) the action postcard—it says YES to conservation and clean water for all and NO to forced privatization of water services.

Take community action and make individual choices: Look at water issues in your community, including concerns about who makes decisions about water, and how we can protect our ecosystems so that water remains (or becomes) clean. Learn more about the global context of water use, abuse, and governance.

Question our society's use of bottled water. Learn about the 'exclusivity contracts' that are putting bottled water and pop machines into our public buildings and schools.

Educate! Get together and learn about the freshwater crisis, and explore how we can respond.

Call on the Government of Canada to stop promoting privatization and start supporting genuine community control over water, and to protect and preserve natural sources of water.

Whether you're focusing on the local or the global; whether you're looking at water from the perspective of ecology, Aboriginal rights, sustainable development, human rights, economic justice, theology, and more, we want to hear from you. And we have resources to help your work: www.kairoscanada.org/e/resources/orders.asp



For more information about the campaign, contact Sara Stratton, Network and Campaign Coordinator, at 1 877 403 8933 x241 or sstratton@kairoscanada.org

Access Justice

volunteer lawyers advise clients on civil matters.

Wednesdays,
2-4 pm, 386-8521

Thursdays,
Noon-2 pm. 388-4728

Call for an appointment.

Employment Options for Persons with Disabilities

The Canadian Society for Social Development is a non-profit charity providing online employment and skills training to persons with disabilities. Enrolment is ongoing.

www.businessabilities.ca

Sue Hendriks, from the Together Against Poverty Society, reads the Street Newz !!!
www2.povnet.org/taps



InnovativeCommunities.org

A New Approach to Finding Solutions to Homelessness in Victoria

Lack of affordable housing and homelessness are not new issues to Victoria and many other cities in Canada. Despite Federal and Provincial government and non-profit agency resources aimed at alleviating problems associated with this issue, the numbers of people without decent housing are increasing.

ICO, a new organization, is challenging traditional ways of doing things and looking at finding innovative solutions to combat poverty and homelessness.

Since 2002 ICO has developed 46 units of supportive housing in Victoria for formerly home less and mentally ill residents. It plans to secure at least 300 additional units of affordable housing over the next five years to those in need.

ICO has developed a special twenty-minute presentation available to organizations, businesses, universities, colleges and schools. It offers a non-partisan overview of homelessness as a local concern and examines what resources and actions may be needed to overcome homelessness. A more detailed and intensive two hour workshop is also available. Both the presentation and the workshop are offered free of charge to interested community groups and organizations.

For more information go to InnovativeCommunities.Org or contact: Sharon Wright 250.413.3236

website tracks MP voting records

www.howdtheyvote.ca.

Somewhere someone said to build community, amongst other things, start a tradition. Well we did that with the **Annual New Year's Day Poor People's Levee Tour.**

Every year, since 1997, Poor Folks of Victoria have toured the various New Year's Day Levees (receptions by various mayors and the Lieutenant Governor) to begin the year. All the public are welcome and we remind the public that poverty has yet to take a day off. Thanks to area unions we've been able to rent a bus for the past couple of years and that's made it even more fun.

So bring your singing voice, your appetite and your sense of humour to Victoria City Hall 9:00 A.M. on New Year's Day, and tour the levees including Government House and Beautiful Langford.

Art Farquharson for The Together Against Poverty Society

Vancouver Island Head Injury Society presents



An opportunity for people with disabilities to join the age-old tradition of quilting for service. The finished quilt will be given to a charity of the group's choosing.

No experience necessary, and men are welcome too.

Mondays 3:30 to 5:30 pm, ongoing until June 2006.

Register anytime with a onetime fee of \$15, which includes a VIHIS membership.

For more information, phone Lindsay at 598-9339. Building Community Stitch by Stitch

Made possible by a grant from the City of Victoria, private donors, Satin Moon Quilt Shop, Pepper's Foods, Sawyer Sewing Centre, Salt Spring Organic Coffee, Bubby Rose's Bakery, and Spiders Eye Projects.



Our Homes Are Bleeding

The Our Homes Are Bleeding collection has grown out of the stories of cut-off lands in British Columbia. These stories are a part of the history of the reserve system in Canada, aboriginal title and rights and First Nations resistance to colonial assertion of land title. The records of the McKenna McBride Royal Commission (1913-1916) include transcripts of testimonies given to the Commission, photographs and maps. Additional historical records, including maps, documents, newspaper articles, photographs, audio and video clips, show the continual assertion of aboriginal title and rights. Resource lists, narrative essays, a student webquest and teacher's resources have been developed to support the use of the collection.

www.ubcic.bc.ca/Resources/ourhomesare/

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
AND WHY AM I IN THIS HANDBASKET?

Bodhisattva Bluff

By mid-morning I was out the door and greeting my landlady Larisa as she strolled up the steps.

"Where are you off to?" she questioned.

"Oh, just off to school to do some reading." I replied. And just as I began walking my bike down the stairs she mentioned something in regards to the atrocities going on down in New Orleans-something that struck a nerve. So we got talking about conspiracy theories and why the word conspiracy is nothing more than a way to burden honest curiosity. One thing led to another and an hour later we were still there talking, but by this time the conversation had boiled down to the bottom lines of humanity.

Larisa drew cards of wisdom from her Buddhist hand, explaining how "you can trust no one until they're enlightened." I disagreed, and questioned "how could this world ever achieve a peaceful existence without trust?" I told her "there are more good people than bad and you must trust humanity to see that."

We both wandered off into our own trances of thought, searching for the common ground of compromise. But we never reached it. I pedaled my way up the street melding all Larisa's Buddhist philosophies into ideas of my own. I wondered, "if the Dharma really is the eternal law of the universe, how could trust be such a peripheral vision?"

On my journey to school I stopped off at a grocery store for some fruit. The store was buzzing and packed with all the ripe produce I'd come for. I grabbed a bundle of bananas a few oranges and added myself about eight back in the line cueing from the cashier.

A moment later an older fellow lined up behind me. He looked me in the eye with a stare of longevity, and smiled with a million wrinkles. He was bald with a roundish face and deep bags hung from his eyes like Buddha. I thought to myself "should I let him go ahead of me?" Just that moment he peeked over my shoulder and said, "Oh you got those imported bananas, the expensive ones. Why don't you go grab the locally grown bananas, support local I say, besides, they're cheaper!"

I thanked him and without another word I was back in the produce section searching for BC grown bananas? I'd never heard of BC grown bananas. I searched and searched, but no BC bananas. I was too shy to ask the clerk for assistance, so I grabbed another bundle of imported Guatemalan bananas and returned to the checkout line. Way at the front was the old fellow paying for his groceries. He grabbed his bags and glanced back at me standing once again about eight people back.

He chuckled lightly, then yelled back "boy I sure got you!" He winked and walked out the door.

By Dan Harrison



Dignity Village

On December 16th of the year 2000, a group of eight homeless men and women pitched 5 tents on public land and Camp Dignity, later Dignity Village, was born. We came out of the doorways of Portland's streets, out from under the bridges, from under the bushes of public parks, we came openly with nothing and no longer a need to hide as Portland's inhumane and Draconian camping ban had just been overturned on two constitutional grounds. We came armed with a vision of a better future for ourselves and for all of Portland, a vision of a green, sustainable urban village where we can live in peace and improve not only the condition of our own lives but the quality of life in Portland in general. We came in from the cold of a December day and we refuse to go back to the way things were.

http://outofthedorways.org/

Conrad's Tent City Journal (excerpts)



Fri, 29 Sept 2005 Singing in the rain

Last night was the first rain since the beginning of our tent city, we erected multiple tents, to house us all, and still no action from the police. A few days back well there w as about 14 police officers surrounding us, 2 banks were robbed while they were at our camp, so what is really important?

Our camp is experiencing our first problems with drugs, as of last night, and we will be discussing this soon, but, it will be interesting to see if the police will attempt to use this as an excuse to arrest all of us, even though it is only a few people (2-3) and everyone else is law biding. Do you arrest everyone in an apartment building because one person is caught with drugs?

We are moving forwards in plans to expand with our needs, we need to be able to cook food, and we need to have better shelter against the elements, so we are making a kitchen and getting more tents. Everyone has been really supportive by bringing us great cooked food, usually even vegan, but we need to be self sustaining because we do not want to be a burden. Eventually we may even expand to grow boxes for some vegetables. For now we are dumpster diving and receiving food donations, we also would appreciate any tents, tarps, kitchen supplies, sleeping bags and art supplies. If anyone is willing to write letters or make phone calls to the police, the city council, the mayor, the provincial government, federal government, the provincial capital commission, or the media, it would be appreciated. Also anyone is welcome to bring a sleeping bag and come sleep with us to show support whether you have a home or not.

Tue, 18 Oct 2005

cops came today and informed us that an injunction is now being sought. in the future if we camp together, they will not use injunctions but rather just inforce the bylaw, witch they had refused to enforce before.

The city has claimed it has solved the problem by opening another 50 or so beds at the shelters, witch includes youth only, and women only shelters. The math does not add up either, 180 beds, 500 -700 estimated homeless at any given time, never mind all the issues with shelters. They are trying to say it is a health and safety hazard for us to be there. We expect the injunction summons on thursday or friday and will likely go to court on monday or tuesday, we may well be able to hold this off for weeks.

Tue, 25 Oct 2005

the police visited us tonight at 11pm, the first visit in days. they showed up and said we could not have our fire (witch we have had for weeks, and was approved by the fire chief because it was contained) so one person (against the wishes of the rest of the camp who were currently huddled around the fire) started to poor water on it when an officer came up behind him and began to spray fire extinguisher into the fire (witch was still surrounded by us, the crowd of unexpected people) choking us with the fumes. The fire was re lit within minutes.

Tue, 25 Oct 2005

The judgment on our injunction has been held over, the presiding judge has been brought over from Vancouver. the judge may entertain the request to have the city provide a temporary location before granting the injunction. This is what peaceful, non Violent direct action can do! David Arthur Johnston had his trial today also. he was found guilty, and awaits sentencing, the lawyers have suggested to either not sentence him or to only give him probation, no jail time. This is thanks to all the public support we have been given. Thank you.

Wed, 26 Oct 2005

Today the judge announced he would be granting the injunction against us, the residents of tent city. The injunction will be carried out on Friday morning. The same day that David Arthur Johnston goes to court. Coincidence? The judge did change the injunction slightly by placing a date on it, thus forcing the city to bring the issue to court. Police have stated that they will not wait for further injunctions, rather they will confiscate sleeping bags, tarps and tents, under prov isions allotted by the bylaw.

Mon, 31 Oct 2005

Today the injunction took effect, we started cleaning and moving our belongings at around 5 am. Police showed up at around 8am, a circle was formed around the officer in charge, where he was asked by the group in front of the news cameras, where we could go that was legal, and weather we could be arrested if we moved to another city park. He refused to answer. Many peoples belongings were confiscated. The neighbouring church lot was being used to store some peoples belongings while they assisted with cleaning, then the police began to confiscate items from the church lot. They told us we did not have permission, we told them to ask the church, they asked, and we did have permission. A full fire truck was called out to put out our contained cooking fire. A massive waste of city money. They confiscated 4 truck loads of belongings. Anything that was not claimed immediately was taken, weather it had an owner or not. It will cost a fee to regain items, approx \$85.00. They stated they'll enforce the bylaw anywhere we go.



Sunday, 6 Nov 2005

8 people were arrested and had their blankets and ALL OTHER BELONGINGS taken yesterday for attempting to sleep in Beacon Hill park. One was arrested for returning to Cridge park. The Rest of the group wandered through the day, and eventually after much discussion decided, in a bold move, to go to the place that right now has a great deal of say in the issue. The lawn behind the court house. They are still there despite threats of being arrested, and are expecting a stand off with police today.

Uncle Willy's...NO THANK YOU!!!

Friends of mine invited me to join them at Mr. Dodd's Thanksgiving Dinner at Uncle Willy's. We waited outside in the line-up longer than we were inside eating because our mealtime was cut short by a brutish thug who came to our table and told us to leave.

"You can't take food out of here...Leave the food here!", our bouncer shouted at us. We didn't know about the buffet policy. I have dined with this couple dozens of times at various free meals including the fabulous Tapas Bar and the wonderful Blethering Place. Nobody has ever stopped Linda from packing up Kenny's meal to eat at home. Being completely blind, Kenny prefers to eat in the privacy of his own home.

Linda immediately relinquished a small tub of cole slaw and four chicken legs while Kenny apologised. The cooperation and apologies did nothing to ease the aggressive behaviour of the bouncer. He grabbed Kenny's pack from the feeble grip of his 63yr. old disabled companion with enough force to tear the canvas and began digging thru it. He removed a bagged 6-pack and threatened Kenny with a "\$1,000 ticket."

"You can't take my beer!", Kenny cried out in vain. "I'm sorry we tried to take some food home, but that doesn't give you the right to steal my beer".

For my part, I was silenced by the shock of this abuse and somewhat embarrassed. There were about 400 guests that night, some of whom I suspect could be called troublemakers. However, we three were not causing any disturbance and did not deserve to be treated as criminals.



In spite of his grade 3 education, Kenny knew his rights had been violated. He wanted the police called in but was physically escorted out the door. I later called Uncle Willy's and was told my friend could come pick up his beer but that he would be given a \$1000 ticket.

Kenny was fine with that.

After explaining the situation to the Saanich Police, I was told to call them back if the manager was uncooperative. As it turned out, the threatening brute who ruined our Thanksgiving meal that night was the manager. And although he invited us to come pick up the beer, he was singing a different tune once we all bussed up there several hours later. He told us to get out of his restaurant and accused Kenny of stealing.

I calmly corrected him: "My friend stole nothing. He tried to pack his dinner home, but left it behind on the table. It is YOU who stole from HIM...this makes YOU the thief." The manager knew he had no right to steal Kenny's beer unless Kenny was drunk or drinking in the restaurant so what spewed from his mouth next came as no surprise. The manager now claimed he had witnesses who saw Kenny drink two beers.

Oh great...a thief AND a liar! The manager then shoved me towards the door (with blind Kenny on my arm). I called out "DON'T TOUCH ME!" We called the police back and a patrol car was sent over. After hearing our saga, the policeman went inside to speak with the manager. The officer quickly returned and told us what the manager told him.

LIES! All lies! First of all, the manager claimed that Kenny stole \$80 worth of food. Unless there was some gold leaf grated up in that slaw, this was an absurd exaggeration. Besides...he left the food behind. Secondly, the receipt in the bag was for a six pack and six beers were confiscated. Where did those two extra beers come from and why wasn't Kenny kicked out as soon as they saw him drinking the first beer?

We have the provincial government employee at the liquor store willing to attest to the fact that a sober Kenny and Linda purchased a six-pack about an hour before the dinner. We have the bus driver who would likely recall the sober blind man sitting at the front of the bus. We have the hundreds of guests, most of whom know Kenny and would vouch for his integrity and sobriety that night. And we have the Victoria Police Department who know Kenny is not a thief or a liar or prone to public drunkenness. None of this mattered though. The cop said it was the manager's word against ours and that there was nothing we could do.

I can't help but think my friends and I were treated unfairly because of assumptions the manager made based on the clientele that night at Uncle Willy's. It's wrong to criminalize the impoverished, they have enough difficulties without having to deal with negative stereotypes.

After supplying the Saanich Police, A Channel News and the Better Business Bureau with the facts, I was expecting some kind of results. Instead I discovered that some of us don't have a voice. It is quite disheartening to realize that nobody is listening.

For a professional businessman to feign compassion and benevolence by participating in a free Thanksgiving meal for hundreds of hungry people only to bully and threaten guests trying to pocket a chicken leg or two is shameful. To steal from a blind man, become physically abusive with two disabled women, and then lie to the police about it all is abhorrent.

I truly feel that Uncle Willy's wronged my friends and I. It's not so much the \$10 worth of beer, it's the fact that personal property was stolen from a blind man's pack and when we went through the proper channels to get it returned, nothing happened. Perhaps the lesson here is that the poor do not have the luxury of having principles. Maybe we should just be grateful for the free meal.

Written by cyann ray

When Pigs Fly

I would hope that in all of this rotating strikes for the Teachers, we are not forgetting that we have 75-100 homeless persons who formed a Tent City in Victoria. Do you think if all the poor and homeless descended on the Legislature, Vince Ready would be appointed to negotiate Welfare for us!

While the big march on the legislature happened on International Poverty Day, poor people seemed to be forgotten in the spiel of speeches that rang from the Legislature. Implying that Teachers will land up on the street or in poverty may have an ounce of truth in it, everyone is 2 paychecks away from welfare, it is hardly going to be a common scenario. And there would be a lot of other circumstances before they get there. And a lot of financial resources to go through before they even qualify for the crummy \$510.00 a month.

To be sure, Bill 12 is disgusting, just as the Parliamentary violence heaped upon the H.E.U. last year. This is not a fight for the teachers, in my opinion: it is about enacting unfair and unjust laws then calling those who choose to defy those laws as law-breakers. It is no less than the violence, heaped upon the poor and disabled in 2002. And I have yet to see much more than some local coalitions take up the fight.

Can you imagine if the BC Federation of Labour had a march, only allowed those on welfare or living on the street to speak for themselves. Can you imagine if they allowed those with visible and invisible disabilities to speak for themselves about their quality of life or lack thereof.

How about a general strike to raise welfare rates and restoration of that which was lost to those living in poverty. How about a general strike to have struck down the welfare rules that only allow for welfare for employables for 2 out of 5 years. How a general strike about returning to single parents the exemption on earnings and child support. How about a general strike for those who don't qualify because they have not been independent for 2 years or earned \$7,000.00 in the previous 2 years. How about a general strike to restore the Health Benefits and Home support that was lost to the most vulnerable in this province.

How about Strike pay for those who have landed up living on the street, unable to collect welfare at all!

How about striking for housing, not shelters, for the hardest to house instead of another bloody research project. The poor, disabled, and marginalized groups have been studied to death. We have piles of research, but no homes. We have piles of studies, but inadequate and substandard food. We have those who have the shelters, and those who get paid to run them, but people have no homes.

We have studies on the Quality of Life but after the paper work gets done and all the results tabulated, correlated and finalized, rates don't go up, no more housing or housing subsidies are put into place, additional costs are not restored nor are the Home support workers put back into place. Where is the quality of life when you have to trade off keeping your cable and Internet in place over going to a play or purchasing meat that is not on mark down.

Where is the quality of life when you are walking everywhere to seek out free food when you can't afford a bus pass. Where is the quality of life when you have to live in a 'slum-building' sharing 2 bedrooms with someone you don't know.

How about being able to get the medication you need instead of some weird denial on a prescription your Doctor gave you. How about access to addiction treatment when you ask for it not being told 'sorry no beds' or you have to be 'clean, sober' for 30 days. Sorry a '6 months wait list'.

Where is the quality of life when you can't get a place because the media insists on branding you and everyone in your building as undesirables. Think you will get another place to live in if you want to move? Dream on!

Does the City ever do studies on where people go when their housing is lost. Do they know where the people from the closure of the house on Yates St. went? Do they know where the people from the closure of the house on Cook St. went? Do they know where the people from the burnt house on Quadra and Bay went? Does any one give a damn? Will anyone care where people went after the City gets an injunction to remove people from the Church property across from St. Anns?

It's all just one more 'illegal camper,' stupid euphemism! Homeless is homeless! Unable to afford to rent in conventional housing is a reality. Poverty through no fault is a reality. So is addiction, so is Mental Illness, so is disability!

Do you think we could persuade the City planners to have a percentage of new apartments designated as subsidized housing, by the owners of the buildings? Do you think we could persuade a big Union or the BC Federation of Labour to build housing for the hard to house or those who suffer from addictions? In one of the Eastern Provinces and I forget which, housing was built, maintained and looked after by the building trades groups for those who had a difficult time renting in conventional housing. With no government money, donated land and donated materials and Labour. They were able to provide some employment for the hardest to house, some employment for the disabled and in the way directly impacted a positive reaction to the determinants health we keep hearing about.

Do you think we could persuade the MLA's to put 1 % of their paychecks into a 'Built in BC Housing' to give poor and single parents a place for them and their children a safe and affordable place to live. Do you think we could persuade them to donate 1 days per Diem to a food bank (\$149.00). Do you think we could even persuade the BC Government to allow 1% of the provincial budget towards building housing for the poor or maybe raising the welfare or shelter rate to reflect the true cost of survival and maybe allowing us to reach that unachievable goal of 'LICO' (Low income Cutoff) from Stats Canada. My perception is "not in my lifetime" or "when pigs fly"!

Written by Carol Romanow. - a mother, grandmother, and organizer for SOLID - the Society for Intravenous Living Drug Users. You can write to Carol at momma@vcn.bc.ca

Will Victoria Host a Space Preservation Treaty Conference?

A little over two years ago, on June 23, 2003, the Victoria, B.C. City Council unanimously passed a resolution that escaped media attention at the time, but galvanized a fair number of community groups supporting its passage.

The Victoria Resolution calls for a Space Preservation Treaty Conference to ban all missile defence systems and space-based weapons worldwide.

The result of banning weapons in space will be a transformation of the global war industry into a peaceful, cooperative, sustainable economy, with a focus on improving the global environment using space-age technology, a win-win scenario for the human race.

Dr. Keith Martin MP and Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Pierre Pettigrew, Support a Conference to Ban Space Weapons

Minister of Foreign Affairs Pierre Pettigrew hints at Canada's support for a U.N. Treaty Conference to ban space-based weapons. In a speech to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, Pettigrew alluded to the possibility that Canada and other nations might be willing to look outside of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, deadlocked for eight years, for a multi-lateral agreement banning weapons and warfare in space.

Pierre Pettigrew told the United Nations: "Last September, in his address to the General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Canada did more than just lament the 'tragedy it would be if space became one big weapons arsenal and the scene of a new arms race.' He proposed a course of action in calling for the extension of the 1967 Outer Space Treaty's ban on weapons of mass destruction to include all weapons based in space. The Conference on Disarmament remains our preferred forum for taking this work forward, but if it is unable to include this subject in a program of work and start implementing it soon, we and others will have to look elsewhere. Outer space may be infinite, our patience is not."

Esquimalt-Juan de Fuca MP Dr. Keith Martin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, has publicly stated his support for a treaty to ban space-based weapons:

"... I am going to present to my government a solution to reiterate and to put forth an international ban of space-based weapons, which is something that my government would firmly support."

Not only are political leaders concerned, but so are many communities of faith who have spoken out on this issue. From a faith perspective, there is something wonderful and of immense value about the reality in which we live. Many faith communities and their leaders feel that to literally surround our planet with killing machines is a profound violation of the deep goodness, or God, by which we have been created.

In addition, the enormous costs involved in building space weapons will mean that our society at every level will have to become increasingly focused on nothing but war. To turn our society into the service of death is already to destroy who we are. This we must not do. Whether we belong to an explicit faith community or are on our own spiritual journey, all of us have a sense that we must not betray the deep goodness in humanity and in the cosmos.

Canada & the 1997 Ottawa Land Mines Treaty Conference

The last time Canada hosted a Treaty Conference was in 1997, when Ottawa won the right to serve as the host city for 122 nations of the world who came together to sign the Treaty Banning Landmines.

In the spirit of overcoming Western alienation, Canada's next Treaty Conference should be held in Victoria, as British Columbia's capital, and one of the first British Columbia municipalities to adopt the Space Preservation Treaty Resolution.

Victoria Councillors Pamela Madoff and Rob Fleming sponsored the June 23, 2003 resolution, which was also supported by Victoria Peace Coalition, the Council of Canadians, Victoria Chapter, the Green Party of Victoria (Beacon Hill constituency), the World Federalists, Victoria Chapter, the Victoria Campaign Against War and Sanctions in Iraq (VCAWSI), and the Institute for Cooperation in Space (ICIS).

Victoria has now been joined by other British Columbia cities. Six B.C. cities, including Vancouver, Nanaimo, Burnaby, Sparwood, and Bowen Island, have all adopted the Victoria Space Preservation Resolution.

A Space Preservation Treaty Conference would involve hosting United Nations member nations (there are 191 of them) to come to Victoria to sign a Treaty banning warfare and weapons in space.

It's clear that most of the world's nations want a Space Preservation Treaty Conference. At the latest meeting in the United Nations on preventing an arms race in space, on December 8, 2003, the General Assembly voted 174 – 0 for an international agreement banning the weaponization of space. Only four nations, United States, Israel, Marshall Islands, and Micronesia abstained from voting.

Public opinion polls show that Canadians and Americans do not favour weapons in space. A March 23, 2004, Ipsos-Reid/Council of Canadians/Polaris Institute poll found that 69% of Canadians disagree with Canada's joining in U.S. missile defence. The same poll found that British Columbians (77%) are most likely to disagree with Canada's joining U.S. missile defence.

In the United States, an April 17, 2004, poll of Americans conducted by PIPA/Knowledge Networks found that "a treaty banning all weapons in space was considered a good idea by 74 percent of respondents, and only 21 percent favoured building a missile defence system right away" (Washington Post, April 17, 2004).

Having taken a leadership role with the Victoria Resolution, our city can offer itself as the host for a Space Preservation Treaty Conference.

The time has come for public opinion to pressure our leaders to support a U.N. Space Preservation Treaty Conference and unite the world to create a new global reality of peace for every child and for their children's children. By banning space weapons, we can build a social infrastructure which prevents poverty and improves the quality of our community.

Websites:

The Victoria Space Preservation Resolution is online at:
http://www.vipirg.ca/samd/motion_city_of_victoria.pdf

How To Ban Warfare & Weapons In Space - Create A Space Preservation Treaty Conference
http://peaceinspace.blogspot.com/peaceinspaceorg/2005/08/strategy_campai.html

CAMPAIGN FOR COOPERATION IN SPACE - <http://www.peaceinspace.org>

Victoria Peace Coalition - <http://vicpeace.ca/>

By Alfred Lambremont Webre, JD, MEd, International Director, Institute for Cooperation in Space, Susan Clarke, Victoria Peace Coalition, and Harold Munn, Rector (The Rev. Canon Dr.) St. John the Divine



One rainy Sunday morning in Vancouver, 'safe streets' officers, employed by Granville St. merchants, rouse storefront sleepers.

Remembering Dave (1948-2003)

In October 2003 Victoria's social justice community lost Dave Nash who still is greatly missed. Dave was involved in so many activist groups they are almost too numerous to mention.

I met Dave when he came to a meeting I called to start an unemployed action league in 1995. Dave attended and helped plan the anti-poverty events, rallies, protests and workshops. He was also at every peace rally, May Day rallies, the Piggy Awards and attended anti-racism events like the rally to welcome the Chinese migrants in 1999. He also helped the Central America Support Committee, Goods for Cuba, and the Communities Solidarity Coalition. A former union member, even after he was unemployed he went out to every picket line when solidarity was called for.

Dave had a great sense of humour which was always full force at our sometimes hilarious anti-poverty actions. One of the most fun was when a bunch of us dressed up in our best clothes and tried to deliver a giant gold Margaret Thatcher Award filled with moldy buns and plastic flowers to Joy McPhail who had been the NDP welfare minister who cut \$46 off single employable cheques in 1996. Both Dave and I had been affected by the NDP welfare cuts and also organized a protest at a \$100 a plate NDP fundraising dinner.

Then under the Liberals in 2001 the attacks on poor people accelerated and Dave lived with the torment of having to go through endless how-to-get-a-job courses and the axe of the two year cut off hanging over his head. Even though Dave had health problems and was 55 years old he was considered "employable." His plan for the 2 year welfare cut off was to barricade himself into his room.

Back in the day when he was part of the Union of Marginalized and Unemployed Workers, (which evolved out of the Unemployed Action League), we always talked at meetings about the logic and dignity of ending welfare with a guaranteed income. How different his life would have been with such a program, he would not have had to jump through endless job training courses, worried about being cut off and ending up homeless. He would been able to afford a phone and that one fact might have saved his life. Many of us were heartbroken to learn that he was found dead in his apartment with his sister's phone number in his hand.

Dave was a fighter for social justice and an acerbic and witty letter writer. Over 40 of his letters that were published in local papers were put together in a booklet in 2000 by RAW publishing. Copies available: Box 8441 Victoria BC V8W 3S1.

by Cindy L'Hirondelle

Adopt a panhandler I'm not religious, but it's said somewhere in the Bible to love your neighbor, brother, whatever, like you love yourself. So if every 'good,' wealthy or comfortable Christian each adopted a street person, then the good folks could get on with their shopping.

Democracy? Not Quite Yet In a truly democratic country there wouldn't be "budgetary challenged" individuals. Nobody would have an economic advantage over another in any part of their daily activities. Especially one as important as politics. We certainly will never have that democracy under capitalism. Haven't you heard that to win at capitalism, someone must lose?



"Help the Greedy, Starve the Needy"

community calendar

Street Newz offers no guarantee that this info is accurate, or that the events will actually occur. For a free weekly list, email events@pej.ca

Mondays	Movie Monday by donation 595-FLIC or www.islandnet.com/mm
Alt Mondays	Victoria Peace Coalition - dolcia@islandnet.com
Alt. Mondays	Communities Solidarity Coalition - www.communities-solidarity.org, info@communities-solidarity.org
First Tuesdays	Documentary, Debate, Democracy! Open Cinema 7pm, Hermann's (753 View Street) Info: www.opencinema.ca, opencinema@shaw.ca
Tuesdays	Victoria Bluegrass Association Jams 1620 Fernwood, Orange Hall, 7:30 pm 472-6483 free for listeners, \$2 for players - all levels
Tuesdays	Hand Drumming Drop-in, \$10, James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies. Beg: 7-8 pm, Adv: 8:15-9:15 pm Info 386-1054 Drums provided.
Wednesdays	Falun Gong faluninfo.net. Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone Fernwood. Victoria. 5-7 p.m. Info: (250)386-8805 free
Wednesdays	Peace Vigils at the Legislature - 7:00 - 8:00 pm - Peace Ambassadors needed to greet inernational visitors! Imagine: War Never Again
Wednesdays	SOLID (Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers) except welfare day, 7:00-9:00 pm, 1947 Cook St. \$3 bus fare reimbursed
Wednesdays	Café Spirituality Open Satsang: discussion, sharing, contemplation. 7 pm, JB Coffee & Books, 143 Menzies By donation or buy a coffee.
Fridays	Coffeehouse discussion group 7:30 pm JJ's coffeehouse in Brentwood Bay 7:30 pm Info: sue_stroud@hotmail.com
Fourth Fridays	Café Simpatico , Activist coffeehouse,1923 Fernwood. Doors at 7 pm. casc@telus.net , 598-7690, communitypipe.org
Saturdays	Plastic Recycling - soft & hard plastics: styrofoam blocks & chips, plastic bags, and rigid plastics. Info: 382-4604. www.pacificmobiledepots.com
Saturdays	Tour of Merve Wilkinson's Wildwood Forest, Ladysmith. Info: Jay, 250-245-5540 Directions: www.ecoforestry.ca/WildwoodMap.htm
Sat & Sun	Falun Gong faluninfo.net 10-noon, Beacon Hill Pk, across from petting zoo, all winter. 386-8805 free
Alt. Sundays	Sierra Club Nature Outings - Call Nikko for more details at 386-5255 x241, www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Sundays	Victoria Folk Music Society 7:30pm, Norway House, 1110 Hillside www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213, 24 hrs.
Sundays	Immigrant/Refugee Youth Group & Buddy Volunteers ICA -930 Balmoral, 1-3 pm Info: Suki-885-1310 or youth@icavictoria.org
Monthly	Faith in Action -a multi-faith coalition to put more heart into BC's income assistance. www.bcfaithinaction.ca
Monthly	Vancouver Island Vegetarian Associaton (VIVA) Potlucks www.islandveg.com
Monthly	PAPER BUYING CLUB: Invest in a green future with 100% post consumer recycled paper. Info: www.rfu.org or 1-800-567-4055.
All month	CRD Parks outings and explorations for all ages. 478-3344 www.crd.bc.ca/parks/brochure2.htm
Ongoing	Auditions for Spilt Milk Improv Comedy Troupe Info: (250) 479-3374, spiltmilk@centralmail.com, www.spiltmilkcomedy.com
to Nov 20th	Ho Tam: Posing photography exhibit. X Changes Gallery 420 William St. 382-0442
To Dec 23rd	Wild Waters, Sacred Spaces Maltwood Museum & Art Gallery www.cpawsyukon.org/three-rivers maltpub@maltwood.uvic.ca (250) 721-6562
to-Mar 06th	The Real Reel Story, or the Real Scoop - tracking media stories about poverty. To participate: thefulcrumproject.org or 604-986-9208.
Weds Nov 16th	Open Cinema presents <i>Sacred Sounds Music of the World, Songs of the Soul</i> 106 Superior St, 7 pm, \$5 www.opencinema.ca (250) 882-7441
Nov 18-20th	School of Americas Watch - Converge on Fort Benning Georgia to challenge oppressive US foreign policy soaw.org
Nov 18-20th	Amnesty International 4th Annual Film Festival David Lam Auditorium, UVIC. by donation Info: www.amnestyfilmsvictoria.ca
Sat Nov 19th	Learn, Share, Celebrate -conference on board development for Victoria's non-profit community. Info: www.unitedwayvictoria.bc.ca, 385-6708
Sat Nov 19th	VICTORIA Municipal Elections– @ various locations DON'T FORGET TO VOTE !!!
Sun Nov 20th	Secular Humanist Society video and discussion 10:30 am , Swans, 506 Pandora St. Free admission.
Sun Nov 20th	Mushroom Miracles 10am Wilderness Park off Clapham Drive. By donation. Info: www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Sun Nov 20th	Transgender Day Of Remembrance info: www.gender.org/remember/day/index.html
Sun Nov 20th	The Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) annual College Service 4:00 pm at Fairfield United Church. All are welcome.
Nov 21-26th	Baby Clown Workshop –uncovering your creative source Gabriola Island Info: parrottles@hotmail.com or 250-247-9805 www.geocities.com/nion44
Nov 21-28th	Annual Peace Education Conference Info: www.peace.ca/CanadianAgenda2005.htm
Nov 21-Dec 3rd	A Day of AIDS public art and education installation at the University of Victoria.
Mon Nov 21st	Social Justice Film Series presents "The Power is the People" A Documentary by SOLID on Salt Spring Island; Speakers: TBA
Tues Nov 22nd	Aerial Art Protest UVic WCWC for an Oil Free Coast Info: sincerehzy@hotmail.com
Wed Nov 23rd	Celebration and Dialogue,Quality of Life CHALLENGE Info: www.qolchallenge.ca, communitycouncil.ca
Thurs Nov 24th	Nat'l Day of Action Against Coastal Oil & Gas Dev. off the BC Coast Info: jen@wildernesscommitteevictoria.org
Thurs Nov 24th	National Day of Action for an Oil Free Pacific Coast Info: Jen (250) 388-9292 or email jen@wildernesscommitteevictoria.org
Thurs Nov 24th	Anniversary of 1989 House of Commons declaration to end child poverty in Canada
Thurs Nov 24th	Seeds of Change: Farmers, Biotechnology and the New Face of Agriculture Film & discussion 7:30pm .UVic, David Lam Auditorium, UVic. 744-2898
Fri Nov 25th	International Buy Nothing Day. Say NO to shopping, YES to visiting a friend or a random act of kindness. http://www.adbusters.org/metas/eco/bnd
Sat Nov 26th	8th An'l Symposium on Restorative Justice “Many Hands Make Lighter Work” 9.30–4pm, William Head Institution, Metchosin To attend, submit security clearance form by November 18 Info: Wally 391-7041 or David 479-2774
Sun Nov 27th	Traditional Ecological Knowledge Trip 10am-12pm Pre-register at 386-5255 x241 Info: www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Tues, Nov 29th	Values-based Business Network Event–Meet Local 'Ethics in Action' award winners 6:00 pm. Info: vbn@telus.net
Tues Nov 29th	Socially Responsible Business Practices: Positive Changes Driven by Spiritual Values 4-5:30, UVic Info: 472-4159 hlock@uvic.ca
Weds Nov 30th	2006 Independent Music Awards Application Due Date Info: www.cmw.net or 905-858-4747
Thurs Dec 1st	World AIDS Day Awareness & Music Steamers Pub 8-11pm Info: http://www.videa.ca
Thur Dec 1st	Grand Opening-Climate Change Demo Bldg, OUR EcoVillage, 2 pm, 1565 Baldy Mtn Rd, Shawnigan Lk. RSVP before Nov 17, 250-743-3076
Dec 2 & 3rd	Musical HATS, Prospect Lake Community Hall. Proceeds to Habitat Acquisition Trust's (HAT). Tickets \$15 in advance 995-2428.
Tues Dec 6th	Victoria Premiere <i>Money</i> Les Productions ISCA inc. (Canada 2004) 7pm
Tues Dec 6th	Day of Remembrance & Action to Stop Violence Against Women Info: 383-7322, 721-8353 or wcentre@uvic.ca
Dec 13-18th	WTO Ministerial Conference in China
Weds Dec 21st	Winter Solstice 18:35 Universal (previously Greenwich Mean) Time
Jan & Feb	Tours to Guatemala, focussing on the rural development organization Pop Atz'iaq and Mayan. Info: camilla_morrow@yahoo.com or (250) 537-2010
Jan 5th	Sacred Circle Dance Glenairley Centre for Earth and Spirit in East Sooke 7-9 PM Info: Betsy 592-2848 or Maureen 642-3546
Mon Jan 30th	Comm. Consultation for Professionals w/ Disabilities 5-8 pm 2340 Richmond Rd Sug don (\$5 +) Info & reg: 250-361-9677 or info@bcprofessionals.org
Feb 8-10th	Aboriginal Policy and Research Dialogue Conference Info: www.cnpr.ca
Feb 9th	Sacred Circle Dance Fernwood Community Centre 7-9 PM Info: Betsy 592-2848 or Maureen 642-3546
Spring 2006	Global Stewardship Student Conference: Evaluating Making Poverty History and Next Steps
Mar 3-5th	Our Island, Our World Film Festival Info: 537-4406, or rddean@shaw.ca
Apr 30-May 4th	17th Int'l Conference on the Reduction of Drug Related Harm - www.harmreduction2006.ca, 1 604 688 9655 ex. 2, info@harmreduction2006.ca
May 31-Jun 2nd	Resist the Hemispheria 2006 Summit-Winnipeg Summit planned by North America's SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO-www.nascocorridor.com)
June 19-23rd	World Urban Forum III Our Future: Sustainable Cities-Turning Ideas into Action Vancouver www.unhabitat.org/wuf/2006/default.asp
June 23-28th	World Peace Forum Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada Info: Web: www.worldpeaceforum.ca, admin@worldpeaceforum.ca
June 25-27th	Int'l Peace Education Conference - BCTF Vancouver Info: www.worldpeaceforum.ca or 604-871-1865

NEW RELEASE: "Unheard Voices" is a film about homeless families in the Burnside-Gorge Community of Victoria, featuring music from Guy Langlois.
Video clip:www.cvnet.net/cosmic/unheard_voices.mpg Music: members.shaw.ca/ambiance

Food Banks and Meals

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW'S SOUP KITCHEN)
740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week
Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY
973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am- 4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
4-697 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V9B 2X2 phone: 474-4443
Tues, Weds: 10am – 3pm, Closed last week of month

FOOD NOT BOMBS - a collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144, ext 1940
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring clean plastic containers for bowls, bags for produce. http://resist.ca/~fnb-victoria

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX
C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844
WorkLink Employ ment Society phone: 478-9525
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211
Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually \$4 & \$2 /12 & under.
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance
-Community school cafe open Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.

MEALS ON WHEELS
9751-3rd st. Sidney, B.C., V8L 3A5 phone: 655-9222
For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors, health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests.
Current cost of meals- \$6.00. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH www.mustardseed.ca
625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T, W, Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm
M, W, F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children.
Food bank is closed the week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food, friendship, counseling, and crisis intervention. Food hamp ers available. One visit/mth.

OPEN DOOR SOCIETY *May be CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS*
935 Pandora St., 385-2454

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712
9 am–12:30 pm, 1:30 pm–4:30 pm Mon–Friday, Tues aft for Women
Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services.
Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SAINT SAVIOUR'S KITCHEN
310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773
Rainbow Kitchen for women and children, Weds and Fris, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

SALVATION ARMY, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)
2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday – Friday, 9 am – 3:30 pm
Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.

SIKH TEMPLE
Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door
Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER
1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951
Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE
1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169
Food bank open Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Friday and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

UPPER ROOM SOCIETY
919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112
Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am–4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 4–5:30 pm
Meal pass costs \$26 a month, or \$1 at the door.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - *where healthy eating is an act of community.* 250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca, mlthomson@uniserve.com

Holiday Dinners

Sun Dec 4th	Mustard Seed dinner at the Bay St. Armoury doors at 4, seating at 5pm
Sat Dec 24th	Glad Tidings dinner , Quadra St. Noon or 3 pm, children can register for a gift from Santa at 472-1040

Breakfast Club

First Saturday: Christ Church Cathedral, 912 Vancouver St., 7:45-9:30 am
coffee, tea, orange juice, eggs & hash browns, also ham

Second Saturday: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Hall, 680 Courtney St, 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Third Saturday: Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church Hall, 1800 Quadra St. 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, ham

Fourth Saturday: Central Baptist Church, 833 Pandora, 8-10 am; 385-7786
coffee, tea, pancakes, eggs, sausage

Fifth Saturday: BC Ferry Worker's' Union at St. Andrew's Hall, 8-10 am
coffee, tea, pancakes and ham, no eggs

Housing Resources

No Cost for Service, Time Limited Stay

Salvation Army (Emerg men only) 525 Johnson Street, 384-3396

Streetlink 1634 Store Street, 383-1951

Sandy Merriman House (for women) 809 Burdett Avenue, 480-1408

Sobering & Assessment Ctr (24 hr) 1125 Pembroke (@ Cook) 213-4444

Out of the Rain (Youth 15-25) 812-0490 Nov 1st-?, various locations

Kiwanis Youth Shelter (13-18) 2117 Vancouver St., 386-8282

Hill House Women with children 479-3963

Sooke Transition House 642-2591 Women with or without children

Vic. Women's Transition House 385-6611 Women with or w/out kids

Cridge Centre for the Family 1190 Kings Rd 386-7291 Women & kids

Kiwanis House for single women 16-29 w/ one child 382-1004

Margaret Laurence House 995-0058 Women & kids escaping abuse

Low Cost Monthly Rentals

YWCA Women's Residence- 880 Courtney Street, 386-7511

Ritz Hotel- 710 Fort Street, 381-1868

Fairfield Hotel 710 Cormorant St., 386-1621

York Hotel 711 Johnson Street, 385-2544

Douglas Hotel 1450 Douglas Street, 383-4157

Ocean Island Backpackers 791 Pandora Avenue 385-1788

Turtle Refuge Backpackers 1608 Quadra Street 386-4471

Vic. Human Exchange Soc. 361- 2762, 1-800-691-9366,www.humanx.org.

Subsidized and/or Supported Housing Services

BC Housing (subsidized - low income families, 55+, or w/disabilities) 301- 3440
Douglas Street, 475-7550 www.bchousing.org

Burnside Gorge Community Assoc. 388-5251 members.shaw.ca/bgca

Cap. Region Housing (subsidized, low income families, 55+, disabilities)
623 Fisgard, 388-6422 www.crd.bc.ca/housing

Coordinated Housing Registry (subsidized & supported housing, ie: Cool Aid-www.coolaid.org) 826 Cormorant 356-2548

M'Akola Housing Society 384-1423

Pacifica Housing Advisory Assoc. (families) 827 Fisgard 385-2131

Pacifica Housing Serv/Downtown Outreach Serv (connects low-income folk w/ housing in private sector) 826 Cormorant 356-2555

Pandora Youth Apts 753 Pandora, For 15-19 yrs, Andrea - 380-2663

St. Vincent de Paul Soc. 382-2767 www.svdpvictoria.com/services/
Victoria Senior Citizen Housing Society #501-620 View, 384-3434

Housing Searches on the Internet

BC Housing Subsidized Housing List www.bchousing.org/Housing

Brown Bros. Property Management www.brownbros.com

BC Co-Operative Housing www.chf.bc.ca/

Camosun Off Campus Housing List www.ccss.camosun.bc.ca

David Burr Property Management www.davidburr.com/

UVic Off Campus Housing www.housing.uvic.ca/offcampus/search.htm

Helpful Housing Hints:

1. Add your name to the BC Housing list.
2. Add your name to the Coordinated Housing Registry.
3. Get the addresses & phone numbers of subsidized or supported housing units from the Cool Aid Society, the BGCA, M'Akola, etc. If you find one you like, make friends, impress them, ask them to pull your name off the list.

Some places to call for help

Adult Addiction Comm. Treatment Serv: 228-1250 Quadra, 387-5077

AIDS Vancouver Island: 1601 Blanshard St., 384-2366

Alano Club: 1402 Broad St, 383-9151

Alcoholics Anon: #8, 2020 Douglas, 383-7744 (help), 383-0415 (off)

Cool-Aid Medical Clinic: 385-1466

Cool-Aid Phone Message Service (\$5/mth): 383-1977

Foundation of Support of Recovery for Men: 480-1342

Outreach Services Methadone Clinic: 2004 Fernwood Rd., 480-1232

Research, Education, Evaluation, & Support Prog. (REES): 595-8619

Salvation Army Addictions & Rehab Centre: 525 Johnson, 384-3396

Soc. of Living Intravenous Drugusers: 7-9 pm Wednesdays, 1947 Cook

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS): #415 - 620 View Street 361-3521

Victoria Native Friendship Centre: 610 Johnson Street, 384-3211

Victoria Sobering & Assessment Centre: 1125 Pembroke, 213-4444

Vancouver Island Addiction Recovery Soc.: 536 Cecelia, 480-1342

Bodhi’s Path ... a serial ... episode VIII



Robert Lightheart Jones is a universalist Friend who explores the many ways beings express the great dance of life of which we are but a small part. Robert invites reaction and storyline suggestions c/o streetnewz@islandnet.com.

The story so far: The house is settling nicely into a well oiled machine. One by one, our characters - Albert, Loki, Bodhi, Freyja, - has each found his/her place. Albert's view of the world has been altered greatly through his social interaction with others, and Bodhi's sense of humour and cookery has served as glue for the community.

The three of them were sitting on the floor cushions in Bodhi's cubicle around his lacquered Japanese sushi table. Arrayed on the table was an ornate box open with prime number one northern cannabis bud, a soap stone pipe in the shape of a dragon. Each of them was in mellow mode. Freyja was savouring the euphoric lungful

and her voice was coming out in a strange smoky exhalation. “Ja, dots true, Loki. It is not the quality of this fine weed dot I question....but rather selling it as a career choice...” Her Nordic accent was always a bit more pronounced when she imbibed. She raised a big hand to quiet her son. “I would not wish to lecture you, but...” Bodhi began a long suppressed giggle battling to maintain decorum in light of the apparent gravity of the moment. Freyja gave him a severe look but she was twitching on the edge also. She refused to look at him because his silly smile was infectious. She sniffed and continued but with a softer tone.” You know that you have to keep on top of the home study materials til we can come up with a local junior high that will take someone with your um unique talents. This is not negotiable call it a condition of your continued tenancy. Got that? ”

“Aw Mum... all I want to do is pay my way and I'm good at it making no risky contacts and disappearing quick if my instincts tell me to get out of there ... Bodhi says he can get me going on papering the downtown with Albert's posters for gigs in the clubs. It's a contribution and the perfect tie -in...”

There was a knock on the door and Bodhi rose to his feet in a slow deliberate manner. He had been designated 'Minister of the Exterior' (doors, phones and salespeople) because he was steady eddy in any head space. Freyja hit he switch to the big exhaust fan Zip had put in one afternoon with Albert. Everyone's hair immediately began to wave as if they were in a strong wind directed towards the back wall and the air was pure in moments. Loki had conducted a drill two weeks before. His job was to stash the paraphernalia which he did with lightening efficiency. This was one of the unique talents his mom was not talking about to the school administration.

Making sure every thing had been completed, Bodhi opened the door. On the front step was Nougatine Magrath with all her camping gear. “Well, well its everyone's favourite poor little match girl ...” He swept her into a big hug and brought her in. She seemed to have a rosy glow which Bodhi couldn't define...kind of like she was bigger somehow. Freyja said “Isn't this a surprise...When is the happy event? She patted Nougatine's belly.

“The free clinic says about six weeks. Haven't seen Zip for a long time, maybe he decided he would go to Maui by himself. Is it okay if I crash here on your floor for a while til I can find a place? I guess my sisters Leaf and Myracle are gonna retire from the business and come up here. Leaf says she wants us to share a house together and be a fussy old auntie to junior. Hard to picture the spandex twins doing that gig, but hey ...they've had it with 'The Land Of The Free' alw ays looking over their shoulders and feeling scared....anyway I gave your address here (Gawd, I Hope you don't mind). They need to have a place where I can be reached” She was starting to get a bit teary.

Their eyes travelled round the circle and connected. There were little nods. Loki had a funny expression on his face. He shrugged and looked furtive.

“I guess I could bunk with Georgia even though Wotan snores and hogs the blankets...” he muttered. Freyja grabbed him in a bear hug and mussed his hair. Although he struggled in embarrassment ,he loved the attention.

“Don't you worry honey...we can work it out. You've found your port in the storm.” Bodhi took her elbow and gently steered her to the kitchen.

“The only one who needs to be brought on board is Albert and he is not due to rise beyond the veil of morphia for a while yet. He had a gig last night. He's still out cold in the loft but he's a pretty mellow guy these days since he found his bliss.”

“Mellow my ass! Who turned on the fan. It's a-whinin' like a buzz saw. Don't you guys have any consideration for a hard workin' ole honky-tonk singer....”

“Coffee extra industrial grade, hold the decaf, coming up” said Bodhi. “Morning big guy. You did a great gig last night. Hank Snow was smiling in his grave. Eggs and Pancakes or ...”

“Naw just coffee straight up...No talk til I can give you my un-divided attention. Til them have mercy upon this very old and battered” He ran down and was snoring in the breakfast nook with his hand held out expectantly awaiting a cup of kindness yet.

Everyone worked around his big frame. Loki accepted a cloth thrust at him and was wiping down the eating and cooking surfaces. Nougatine was julienne cutting veggies for the soup. Talking softly as Bodhi put last night's soaked adzuki beans on to simmer slowly with lots of veggie broth. Nougatine was saying that the clinic was offering Lamaze breathing and parenting skills courses but that they had to be attended with both parents. She scanned the available males in the kitchen with Freyja and both of them settled on Bodhi. Loki gave a shiver and said, ‘Eeuw gross!’ Bodhi concentrated on the domestic science of soup. Their combined attention soon overwhelmed his detachment. He let loose a nervous little giggle. “Sure why not? Why shouldn't this masterless, celibate little monk experience the mystery of life up close? ‘The path is beneath your feet, Grasshopper.’ And all that good stuff.”

“You'd do that for me? What a dear man you are Bodhi!” He just shrugged.

“It's your due, I am honoured to be considered for such a high calling. Perhaps I might get to see the child grow straight and tall...or not...gotta fill that huge hand with some righteous brew. Peace comes in small steps but you gotta take the first one first.”

Tell Greenpeace, WWF and Friends to Stop Promoting Old-Growth Logging

By Forests.org - <http://forests.org/> - a project of Ecological Internet, Inc.

In Canada's Pacific coast province of British Columbia, Greenpeace, the Rainforest Action Network, the BC Sierra Club, Forest Ethics and WWF continue to support industrial logging of the World's final and largest tract of primeval temperate rainforest.

The Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) is an irreplaceable large ancient forest ecosystem covering some 20 million acres along Canada's Pacific mainland coast. In these temperate rainforests stand ancient cedar over 1,000 years old, Sitka Spruce trees that tower over 90 meters tall, and healthy and viable populations of grizzly bear, grey wolf and mountain goats.

In 2001 major logging companies and the B.C. government agreed to sit down with these environmental organizations to discuss plans for logging the GBR. Since then the misnamed Rainforest Solutions Project (RSP) has reached a "consensus agreement" with their industry partners. Only a fraction of the forest amounting to 20 percent overall is be protected, relegating 80 percent to voracious industrial logging.

Forest conservationists should quit supporting any environmental organization which does not have NO MORE ANCIENT FOREST LOGGING as its primary, uncompromising stance. Forest-loving activists must abandon any initiatives which lend credibility to first time industrial logging of Canada's and the World's few remaining ancient forests. Ancient forests are this beautiful Earth's final repository of naturally-evolved biological heritage and are too rare and precious for commercial exploitation. They are irreplaceable. Inform the RSP that if they continue to support ancient forest logging in Canada and the World, you will withhold membership in their organization, and encourage others to do likewise.

Please do so at: <http://forests.org/action/alert.asp?id=greatbear>

A Perspective

Bank robbers and gangsters are given a place to live, 3 meals a day, room service, medical coverage which includes dental care, legal advice, and representation in court, and are well looked after. This does not necessarily mean we agree wth or in any way condone their behaviour or that we find them cute, cuddly, or loveable.

Why can't somebody who is not a criminal get some of what a criminal gets?

by Robin Kingsley



Remembering the 14 Women Murdered in Montréal, December 6th 1989

Geneviève Bergeron (21), Hélène Colgan (23), Nathalie Croteau (23), Barbara Daigneault (22), Anne-Marie Edward (21), Maud Haviernick (29), Barbara Maria Klucznik (31), Maryse Laganière (25), Maryse Leclair (23), Anne-Marie Lemay (27), Sonia Pelletier (23), Michèle Richard (21), Annie St-Arneault (23), Annie Turcotte, (21).



From Tre Arrow



October 30th, 2005

Hello to you all out there. It's Tre from behind these walls at Wilkie. I'm not jazzed about being locked up, but if I have to be, I am grateful to be here. Most of the staff is kind and the administration has made a concerted effort to accommodate my raw vegan diet. I can see and feel the rays of grandfather sun and grandmother moon. I can breath in fresh air through the metal grate covering the open part of my window. I've heard birds chirping outside my window, and have watched them pouncing on the grass, jerking and capturing the earthworms from the soil. I have been able to get outside and feel the cool, soft grass beneath my feet.

I attended a sweat lodge ceremony with an elder native named Ron, along with three other prisoners. It was divine! My skin was reddened while tending to the grandfather rocks in the fire. This was the longest stretch of outside time I've had in more than 19 months: three hours! It was quite surreal returning to the cinder block cell after such a powerful ceremony. I'm able to practice yoga with a group once a week. The instructor, Rob, is a gentle, kind man exuding a peaceful energy, not abundantly common in this particular setting. I've also had the ecstatic pleasure of playing guitar! I can't have the guitar in my cell, but I can practice about once a week in the chapel... so sweet!

In case you missed the last call out or have recently joined the supporters list, I'm inclosing the previous message dealing with a crucial letter writing campaign to the Canadian Minister of Justice, and newspaper editors across the continent. These letters are an extremely important act of support and solidarity for me and my legal defense. This is an opportunity for you as my concerned supporters to eliminate the feeling of helplessness that many have expressed. This simple, tangible act of sharing your thoughts and feelings can be extremely empowering. This gives you the chance to have your words documented, your voice heard, and can have a dramatic impact on the Minister's decision whether or not to extradite me. Trearrow.org

Write to Tre Arrow c/o CS #05850722, Vancouver Island Regional Correction Center, 4216 Wilkinson Rd., Victoria, BC. V8Z 5B2.



Healing the Land

On October 11th representatives from various First Nations territories, Vancity, the City of Victoria, surrounding municipalities, Windmill Developments, Vancity Enterprises, engineers, landscape designers, and consultants gathered on the land now known as Dockside Green.

Linda Ross, Vancity Enterprises board member, began the proceedings. "I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathering on traditional Coast Salish territory. We are gathering to celebrate and respect the past, to celebrate and honour the land through revitalization, and to celebrate our promise to leave a positive legacy for the future."

Dockside Green's website (www.docksidegreen.ca) suggests this "will be a socially vibrant, ecologically restorative, economically sound and just community. It will be a distinct collection of beautifully designed live, work, play and rest spaces designed to enhance the health and well being of both people and ecosystems, both now and in the future."

Dockside Green is attracting international attention for its triple bottom line approach, as a model for ecological, economic and social responsibility. There's even talk of an affordable housing strategy.



In Memory of Peter Paul Swietalski

Peter Paul Swietalski was a 45 year old man with a bipolar disorder who was ordered to leave the family home after his 82 year old mother fell and broke her hip. Peter's mother was placed on pain medication, and deemed to have dementia, and the Pubic Guardian and Trustee was appointed to manage her affairs. There was no provision in her will for dementia and Peter did not gain power of attorney. He was left to fend for himself.



Peter attempted to find work, but being 45 and having a mental disorder did not enhance his chances.

Peter had a dog, and on April 1st 2005 was walking him when he stopped to rest at a park bench in View Royal. He was well dressed and some young people joined him and offered him a drink. It was laced with a drug called methadone which induced a heart attack. According to police the autopsy showed no record of any kind of past drug use. The police suspected foul play but could not prove anything. Peter was a gifted digital cartographer and a very intelligent person. This was indeed a tragedy.

I'm Peter's brother, John, and I collect a disability pension for bi-polar and osteoporosis of the spine. I work part-time for the Street Newz and I'm contemplating finishing university. I would like to be a school teacher specializing with handicapped children, but after this senseless drugging I am entertaining thoughts of becoming a Crown Prosecutor. I have several years of university education majoring in journalism and need a few more years to obtain a masters' degree.

I've gone through a hard time as my only friend from Ottawa died one month before my brother. Wayne was a homeless wandering minstrel. He was also in his 40s and died of a massive heart attack while roaming the streets at night.

I am very community minded and like meeting new people. I was also once a victim of a drugging. In 1984 I woke up in the Jubilee Hospital after being in a coma for 5 days. I had been in a sports bar and was slipped a drug called seconal - a sleeping pill. I fell asleep at a bus stop and was robbed of my watch and wallet. Fortunately a police officer found me and drove me to the hospital. I have been on heavy medication ever since to counteract the brain damage caused from being in a coma.

I have put in many hours of volunteer work over the years and was a citizens' advocate in Ottawa. I believe in the dignity of work and would like to help mentally and physically challenged people reach a better quality of life by creating part-time jobs as visitation workers. Most mentally and physically challenged people spend most of the day going for coffee with friends. There are many shut ins who would love to have someone come over and have a coffee with them. I believe this would enhance the lives of the disabled visitor and the shut-ins as well.

I lived alone for 15 months and it was hell. Sometimes I fell out of bed in the middle of the night and couldn't get back up because my back would lock. Fortunately my room was beside a washroom and I could call for help. I have some brain damage from the coma and it is hard to live with others because my medication affects my short term memory and often I forget I have something on the stove or where I put things.

I am forming a society with some coaxing from concerned friends who supported me during my time of grief. I work closely with social workers at the Open Door, and with Reverend Al who officiated at my brother's funeral. Peter was a good hearted person and often volunteered at soup kitchens between jobs. He would probably want me to help others to reach a better quality of life. Bipolar people are very trusting souls and often befriend anybody. They should not be living on the street or in isolation in dingy dives. They deserve a dignified life and more often than not just need to learn some life skills.

For all of us, I'm founding the

Peter Paul Society
People Endeavouring to Encourage Resourcefulness
People Actualizing Useful Lives

WHO WE ARE: a non-profit organization serving Victoria with 5 essential mandates:

1. Employ people on disability pensions to do visitation to other disabled and elderly shut ins to ensure their needs are being met. People on disability are allowed to earn \$400 each month without penalty. This will be a big help to many people who live on a paltry \$776 per month.
2. Assist victims of druggings. A drugging is very hard to prove. Unless there is a conviction the victim is not entitled to any form of compensation. I can't believe how many people I've met who have been drugged at least once in their lives in this city.
3. Visit shut-ins and making sure they have access to a phone to call for help in the event of an emergency.
4. Advise people on forming living wills. We have secured expert lawyers at no cost. A living will provides for power of attorney to a family member upon dementia, senility, or serious injury.
5. Assist the disabled find safe, affordable housing.

WHAT WE NEED:

- Office space
- A computer system
- Help creating a website
- Used reliable vehicle, preferably a station wagon or larger sedan to take shut-ins to doctors' appointments and to do groceries
- Wheelchairs, walkers, & scooters

HOW TO REACH US:

- Leave a message for John on the Street Newz line - 250-413-3235.
- Contributions may be sent to the Peter Paul Society c/o Street Newz, 1027 Pandora Ave, Victoria, BC, V8V 3P6.

Future Present

Puzzle me this. Why was it, exactly, that all people alive then did not share in the world's bounty?

What gave our ancestors the right to squander that bounty? Perhaps, someone could explain to me why the ancients did not believe that they had an obligation to conserve the world's resources for the generations born 100, 1,000 or 10,000 years after them. All earth's resources were finite; they knew this fact. What logic, ethical constructs and semantic riddles did they create in order to convince themselves that they were not deluded by their toy land masquerade? How can anyone reasonably explain why the five hundred wealthiest families in the world were entitled to more than the world's poorest five hundred million families? Why did they permit those five hundred families to determine what was equitable and fair, when only privilege and wealth concerned them? Please explain to me why the ancients forced 250–300 million children to work in dilapidated and dangerous factories, so others could buy cheap pistols and perfumes. At what point, exactly, did greed cease being a deadly sin, and become a virtue? Instead of allowing themselves the right to die with dignity, why did they force each other to endure unbearable pain for days, months or years in the name of humanity? Their ancient gods were merciless, but why were they?

But the question that concerns me most, and should disturb everyone, is how would we respond to this future philosopher reflecting on our age? Ignorance is not bliss, but merely ignorance. The Athenian Greeks of antiquity considered ignorance to be a lack of knowledge, so we cannot use ignorance to excuse our conduct. We know. We know that hydrogen power is our best alternative, and that fossil fuels are our worst, yet we continue to produce 350-400 horsepower leviathans in order to drive to the local supermarket for baked goods and bon bons. We know that our actions are destroying the very planet that sustains us; yet we pollute our most critical resource, water, with abandon. We know that war is not peace and that democracy does not evolve from chaos. Is democracy what we export to the world, or capitalism? We know, as we observe stars being born and stars dying, as we monitor change in every moment, that the universe continuously evolves—matter to energy to matter—so, why do we subscribe to ancient tyrannies and myths, governing our lives by clandestine coercion and meaningless tomes? What comfort lies in lies? We choke back our crocodile tears for the tragedy of poverty and pain, yet we do so very little, almost nothing, to alleviate that suffering, even as we congratulate ourselves on our magnanimity. We know that an acre of cultivated land produces fifty pounds of beef or yields twelve hundred pounds of grain, so why do we squander this vital, limited resource for brauts and burgers, while billions of people starve?

Is this the best of all possible worlds, as some people would make us believe, or the worst? How do we know? If we fail to act on our knowledge to create a truly just society, then it is not knowledge that we possess, but merely gigabytes of useless information, cluttering our minds and clouding our judgements. When, exactly, will our species put aside its nasty, narcissistic nature and wake up? When will we grow up?

Written by George Simich, Rebel without a Pause for social justice, anti-war, anti-capital punishment, environmentalist, anti-nuke and fighting the good fight since Vietnam. Pro Pot; kinda like Pol Pot, only different. georgesimich@hotmail.com

A STRAIGHT GOODS BULLETIN
from Canada's leading independent on-line newsmagazine
www.straightgoods.ca

10 "real" church bloopers

- #1. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
- #2. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.
- #3. The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus."
- #4. Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.
- #5. Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. I t's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- #6. Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.
- #7. A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- #8. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- #9. The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- #10. The Associate Minister unveiled the church' s new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

Rally Supports Resignations from CCP



About one hundred people gathered at Centennial Square on October 19th to celebrate the courage of 5 million Chinese men and women who have publicly renounced their membership in the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). They came together to say 'Bravo' and to send a message of support and to those who have had the courage to step forward.

This wave of resignations was triggered by the release of the "Nine Commentaries on the Communist Party." For the first time, the people of China have an uncensored history of the Chinese Communist Party, and an opportunity to re-think their fate and China's future. They can now look squarely into the history of communism in China, and discover more people have died under CCP rule than the total of the two world wars combined.

It is not easy to be a pioneer on the path to freedom. Anyone caught with the "Nine Commentaries" in China faces immediate detention and a possible prison sentence of up to twelve years. Despite this, Chinese citizens are waking up and are becoming more willing to stand up for the truth even in the face of brutal repercussions.

Unfortunately, western governments and media have been slow to recognize the importance of this historic event, which was one of the reasons for today's rally --to encourage the government, the media and the people of Victoria to support these brave men and women to give them the courage to continue on their journey toward freedom.

Guo Goting recounted how, as a lawyer in China, he was punished many times for defending human rights. He was banned from practicing law, arrested, and finally rescued a with the help of lawyer Clive Ansley and international support of lawyers and NGOs. "A person should pursue a higher principle," Guo said. "Even though an individual's power is so small, the effort is still meaningful. I am aware that I chose a most difficult and dangerous path. My only wish is to help establish the rule of law in China."

Janine Bandcroft, founder and publisher of the Victoria Street Newz, spoke about media censorship and the effect it has on free speech. She recounted a recent incident in which a Yahoo employee provided the Chinese authorities with information which helped sentence a Chinese journalist to 10 years in prison. Janine also spoke about the vast differences between the theory of communism and the ways in which it has been implemented.

Judy Tethong of the Canada Tibet Committee spoke about the atrocities visited on the Tibetan people at the hands of the CCP since the Chinese invasion in 1959. She told the story of Tibetan Buddhist monk Palden Gyatso who spent 33 years in prison in Tibet where he endured interrogation, beatings, torture and starvation. Judy has been fighting for a free Tibet since 1963.

A pictorial display of the CCP's many atrocities told of approximately 80 million people killed or who died unnatural deaths. From the Great Leap Forward (30-40 million killed) to the Cultural Revolution (7-8 million killed or driven to suicide) to the Tiananmen Square Massacre (600-3,000 killed) to the present-day persecution of Falun Gong (the true figure is unknown, but rights groups estimate 10,000 or more killed), picture after gruesome picture showed tortured, emaciated victims of the CCP's brutality.

Many who viewed the display were shocked at the violence. One lady was heard to say: "Why are we doing business with them, it's like openly doing business with the mafia...except that this is a lot worse!"

During the Cultural Revolution Hu Jintao's father was murdered by the CCP. Maybe Jintao, the head of the CCP and leader of China, can be encouraged to become like Mikhail Gorbachev, to have courage and foresight to halt repression and help foster a new China instilled with respect for human life and human rights.

For more information: www.ninecommentaries.com

Joan Quain is a columnist for the Epoch Times and a supporter of human rights in China and Tibet. Write to her at joanq@3web.com



SNZ Coordinator Janine Bandcroft receives Human Rights Leadership Award from Ron MacIsaac, representing the Vancouver Island Human Rights Institute.

Things Are Getting Uglier in Iraq

Hilya missed her old home, or what she now remembered of it. But this new one wasn't bad, certainly not after what had happened in between the two. When she was only a puppy, her original master, Mustafa, had played with her a lot, scratched her tummy and behind her ears. The family of which she was a part thought she was a jewel, which is why they called her Hilya, and fed her scraps from the table.

One day, a little older, Hilya went on her neighborhood rounds with a couple of other dogs. When she got back there was no home left to return to, just a lot of blood stained rubble. Something to do with those flying objects in the sky far overhead, she thought. A small crowd had gathered, some were crying, some were shaking their fists at the skies and cursing something called American murderers. Hilya hung around the ruins for a long time but never found any of her family.

Then times got really tough as she wandered the streets of Baghdad trying to scrounge enough food and water to stay alive. Which was how she met her new master, a somber Shiite Muslim, a battle hardened jihad foot soldier, whom Hilya came to know as Abdul Dabulbul – from listening to what his human friends called him.

Abdul offered her food and water in a bowl, irresistible to the starving dog, who followed Abdul through a bombed out section of the city, and ended up in an abandoned house. To her surprise several other young dogs inhabited the space. Hilya couldn't believe her luck as Abdul took time to talk to the other canines while he patted Hilya's head.

"Sit," ordered Abdul.

All the dogs obeyed his order, sitting straight up with their hindquarters square to the ground, their forepaws folded into the chest to prevent imbalance. While the other dogs remained in this position, Abdul attached a choke collar and leash around Hilya's neck, and guided her to a corner of the room, placed her back against the two walls. He lifted Hilya by the leash until she too was in the sitting position. Abdul tucked her paws into her chest and patted her for doing a good job.

"Stay," said Abdul to the other dogs and they did so, remaining in position. In the days that followed Hilya easily learned the trick and the commands that went with it, and got suitable rewards. Soon she was sitting with the rest of the pack for increasing lengths of time. The longer they sat the bigger the treat that followed.

Next came the Down/Stay routine, which Hilya quickly learned. This was more comfortable, allowing her to sit for longer periods of time with her forepaws on the ground. Abdul hooked her up to a fifty-foot length of clothesline rope, stretching it flat along the ground away from the sitting dog. He would walk about fifteen paces away, show Hilya that his hands were free and not holding the leash. If Hilya moved Abdul stepped on the long line and then snapped it, yelling 'Aacckk!', and forcefully placed her back where she had been. They kept repeating the routine so that the dog would sit in the high or down stay position for long periods of time.

A dog handler and trainer in the Iraqi police force before and after Desert Storm, Abdul knew his business. He worked with a supply of dogs between ten months and a year and a half old. Older than that dogs were harder to train to any purpose. Obedience was insisted upon, plus instant and effective correction for failure when a dog broke the required sit and stay positions. The final stage of training was when Abdul left the area altogether, totally out of sight of the dog but in a spot where he could observe the canine's actions. When he was satisfied that even introduced distractions would not move the dog from position, he gradually extended the time of his absence. Hilya would not even think of breaking her position without a direct command. To mix up the training and keep them motivated the dogs had other duties as working pack animals. They carried panniers of ammunition and went out with the Iraqi freedom fighters on missions that involved some machine gun action. The dogs ran through the ruins and side streets and alleys right alongside the insurgents, carrying part of their master's load. They had a job and they enjoyed it.

Hilya heard his master Abdul talking to various other men and sometimes they carried fire sticks and sometimes they didn't, but they always carried them when the dogs carried the heavy panniers. Then it was usually a noisy job and she could smell the mixture of fear and excitement in the air along with the smell of gunpowder. She heard the humans talking and although she only understood or recognized certain words, she did recognize their tone and manner of speaking. They were in some kind of a fight.

Baghdad's Sadr City slum lay baking in the 115 Fahrenheit heat. In a garbage strewn mud hole children played in the filth. A man scooped up some of the putrid water in a tin bucket to take home to mix with powdered milk for his young family.

The overall neglect of Baghdad's water and sewer system during more than a decade of UN sponsored economic sanctions had taken their toll. The pumping stations and underground pipelines were losing fifty percent of their water before it reached the taps. Hard and expensive to fix in a war zone where the insurgents were now even blowing up the infrastructure to undermine the US client government who was collaborating with the occupying coalition forces.

Fresh water and sewage were mixing underground, water pressure was low or non-existent, and the resulting liquid was a stinking trickle which killed Iraqis as surely as bullets or bombs. Dehydration, diarrhea, vomiting, hepatitis A and typhoid were everywhere, with no hope of a quick fix because no plans had been made for the aftermath of a conquest other than to protect the oil supply and pipelines. Iraqis of all religious persuasion knew the Yankees were drinking refrigerated bottled water, eating ten flavours of ice cream, in their green zone ten miles down the road; supplied by Halliburton or Kellogg, Brown and Root.

His school had been bombed out and no new quarters had yet been found, so Akim and a friend had decided to play insurgency. Thirteen year old Akim

had worked for the past ten days, at times when it seemed safe to do so, along with his year older chum, Omar. Their project was a bombed and rusted, burnt-out semi-trailer sitting on the side of the airport road just outside Baghdad. They had assiduously dug deeper inside the foundation and then had tunneled sideways, reinforcing the sides and top with whatever bits and pieces they could scrounge. What the foreign devils hadn't realized was that when this vehicle rolled off the highway it had crushed a small wayside shelter whose base had concrete walls.

Under his burnoose, which hid his brother's rifle, Akim was thin and scrawny, and didn't take up much room in the hidey-hole they had dug well underneath the carcass of the wrecked semi-trailer.

They placed a steel plate from the vehicle across the tunnel entrance. The danger here was that the occupant, and they took turns, could be sealed into an underground tomb by further explosions if he weren't already dead. But as Omar said, "If you can't dig upward and get out then you die for Allah and go to Paradise."

"I've never been with a woman so far," said Akim, "what would I do with seventy-two virgins?"

Omar, who was a little older, answered, smiling, "You'll think of something. Buy them all ice-cream cones."

Things are Getting Uglier in Iraq is adapted from a novel in progress- Screwed, Boored, & Tattooed - written by Hal Sisson (www.halsisson.ca). Hal is a reformed lawyer and resident of Victoria, with eight published novels. Born in Moose Jaw Saskatchewan, Hal worked as a reporter for the Saskatoon Star-Pheonix, then ran a law practice for thirty years in Alberta's Peace River region. His goal is "to write more fiction before bucket-kicking time."

Sorry 'Bout That: A Tribute to Burlesque

Burlesque theatre is enjoying a popular revival across North America, and Hal has written an affectionate tribute to his twenty years of producing and performing in Western Canada's longest running burlesque revue.

Sorry 'Bout That is a hilarious compilation of songs, gags, naughty poetry, and fast paced skits.

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Sorry 'Bout That salutes the greats of burlesque, British music hall, vaudeville, and reminiscences of performers who have trod the stage with him, furnished him with lively material, or shared the privilege of a life spent leading an audience to laughter.

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There's a Hitler in every one of us, jesus is in everybody's soul. it's up to us to decide who's in control

Skies hold the price of industry; while elderly white men claim all that's free
does it make it you feel content and calm like the pool of pearl in your palm?
Misogynistic, racist, and corporate text books; focus not on your heart and soul, but on your looks
Don't think for yourself, don't tell us the truth; what are we teaching our youth?
Kill all the forests; never mind clean air; never mind the animals who lived there
never mind the sacred wisdom of the trees; desecrate and excavate as you please
cage, trap, mutilate, murder and devour the tastiest animal muscles of the hour
no teeth, eyes, ears, heart, or limbs remain to remind you from where it came
the answer to cancer is cruel animal tests; pull out your organs and slice your chest
never thinking once just whence it came; isn't this a bit insane?

Well, I see these things laid out before me
do you see what's in front of you and me?

Image is everything so consume and gobble; fill yourself with fattening, processed garbage till you wobble
Because happiness is measured by material goods and ifs shoulds, coulds, and woulds
put a nail, put a bomb, put a bullet in their flesh; lock up and try to break us down until not much is left
But one divine thing you forgot you can't repress: undeniable righteousness
Organized religion hard at work trying to bring you down and make you feel like a jerk
Because if you're filled with guilt and shame you're well behaved; give us money, pray and you will be saved!
Nuclear weapons, power plants, and toxic waste dumped on the natives who were here in the first place
Because money, power, and greed take priority over life, freedom, and liberty.
A beautiful goddess in stirrups while dr. egner hiccups and upchucks
They poke, proud, pluck, and drain your veins; isn't this a bit insane?

Well, I see these things laid out before me
Do you see what's in front of you and me?
Do you see the sacredness and divinity within every living thing?
Within every rock, animal, plant, and tree?
Will you see these things laid out before you and me?

There's a Hitler in every one of us, jesus is in everybody's soul
it's up to us to decide who's in control

Tre Arrow

321,000 killed in 2004!



If angels were to descend
and visit the poor and homeless
what would they find?
a gentle people
an abandoned people
by one of the richest cities in Canada.
Are we really so generous,
Oh Victoria, you are so favoured
but you prefer the developer
who lines your pockets
rather than the one Jesus says
you must care for.
I have seen 2 ministers attend
defences of the poor in court
how many of you have your palms greased
by the developer
and Oh Canada we are almost the worst
country environmentally
Mexico is ahead of us in quality of the environment
we are rich polluters
and oh my friends what about the poor and homeless
ones... the ones the angels love and pray for.

Solange

The Rules Are Confused For Those Who Need Sleep In Hungered Safety

Like daisy's in aspect
Well they are going to give everyone
a houseboat
with Internet access
and a library houseboat
and a shower on a barge
and a kitchen house boat
and Alberta
will thank the Western Four
give a gift
of one million barrels
to those that need it
for their support
and everyone will sleep quiet
and dream easy
having nightmares of cheese

©Paul Burnside September 23rd 2005



Victoria Street Newz

indentured servitude makes my pants bag

mild climate nonsense
it's all i ever hear
low-pay compensation for
some imaginary life-style
few can afford to live
in the "Garden City" where
the Money hustled the Gun until
it became illegal
to be poor
and homeless.
not much to smile about
after a day against the grain
but, as i fell in the front door
i caught it over the waves
the hold-outs
living in a tent city
up in Cridge Park
won't give over to the pigs
-even got 'emselves a lawyer.
as the rain sets in for the season
the cooler temperatures will
kill you here
like anywhere else.
something has thawed public opinion
about those dirty, huddled bunches
who stubbornly refuse
to sell back in
and the local news just
can't seem to get enough.
i crack a can
and grin
for the first time all day.

J Fisher

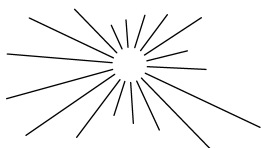


Love through you

I take up this chalice,
In a sacred offering to you.
Let this be my Holy Grail,
In a heart that is always true.
Kingdoms of this world I have not,
Only love and a sorry tattered crown.
Yet one truth is for certain my friend,
We will all die on this hallowed ground.
But let us not speak of such dark days,
Let us rejoice in battles we can still win.
For there is a darkness that plagues us all,
But it is one that we can with time overcome.
So instead lets all strive to live happy again,
To take up our mighty sword to fight on within.
For it is no sin to want to hope and live to win,
It is only evil to take what we did not begin.
So with all you now believe to be sacred,
I offer you up this Chalice of divine truth.
To share with all the riches you may find,
And to pass on your knowledge to the youth.
For yours is the gift of the Holiest of Grails,
In a quest for a love that is always forever true.
For no one can ever see what is best for you,
You must find, in time, the truth of what you do.
Yet today I can still take up this great Chalice,
In a sacred divine offering especially for you.
In the pure hope that one day you will find,
Inside you, a love that is forever true.
To share with whomever you wish,
The loveliness that is you.

Robert R. French

SunshineCommunications.ca



Alan Rycroft
Consultant

Public Relations, Web Sites, & Fundraising

250.592.8307
rycroft@SunshineCommunications.ca

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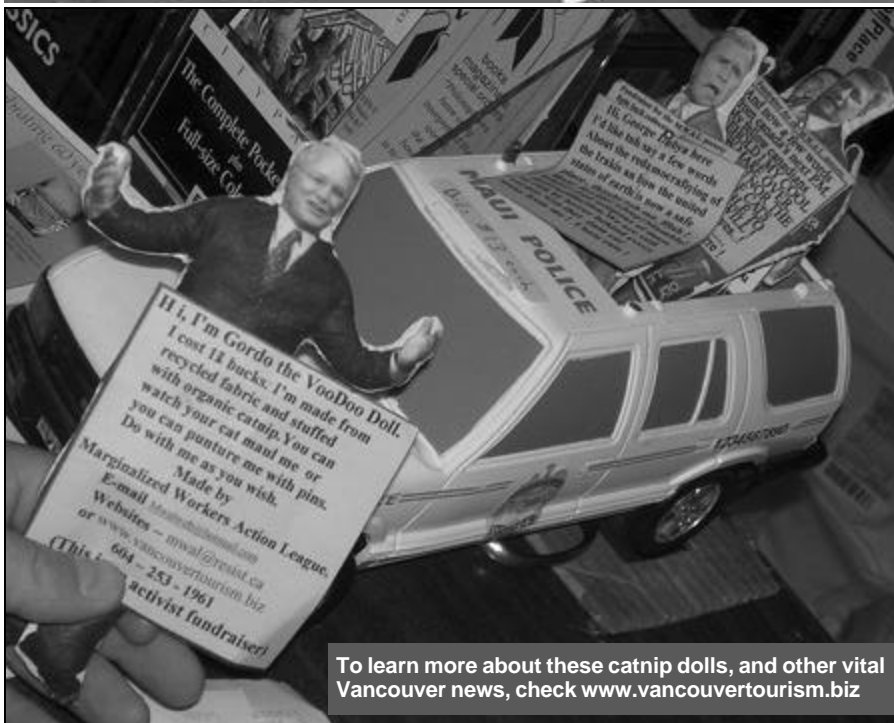
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Circulation 4000



**LOVE AND FEARLESSNESS:
A DOCUMENTARY ON THE
'RIGHT TO SLEEP' IN VICTORIA
AND THE CURRENT TENT CITY**

David Arthur Johnston: "On January 16th, 2004, I began a campaign of occupying the grounds of St. Ann's Academy (what is now the provincially owned offices of the Ministry of Advanced Education) in an attempt to get arrested for sleeping in a 'public-access' area (as there is no such thing as 'public property') so as to challenge the 'crown' and get a judge to make a ruling on the 'right to sleep'; to make an official and public statement acknowledging that it is unlawful to wake a conscientious sleeper on 'public access' property.

for copies of the video:
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Kay-honourary vendor



Rick



Debbie



Rose



John



Bob



John



Marlene



Ken



Ted & B-OK



Robin



Daniel

counting the beans

Expenses	June/July	Aug/Sept	Nov/Dec
Paper & Printing Costs	1077.72	866.21	904.65
Office expenses	98.26	85.38	85.40
Wages & Salaries	1484.45	1419.42	1747.19
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	44.57	71.33	44.76
Community reciprocity	55.00	93.00	95.00
Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	70.00	70.00	87.50
T-shirts	0.00	90.66	0.00
Total Operating Expenses	2830.00	2696.00	2964.50
Revenue			
Advertising (payment rec'd)	0.00	375.00	375.00
Paper Sales (from vendors)	975.00	745.00	844.50
Donations	595.00	316.00	445.00
Subscriptions	60.00	60.00	100.00
City of Victoria Grant	0.00	100.00	100.00
Vancity Grant	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
KAIROS Grant	200.00	100.00	100.00
Total Operating Revenue	2830.00	2696.00	2964.50

Advertising in Street Newz

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1. Street Newz will not promote the sale of humans, their sexual services or products. We won't print images of people as sexual objects, or animals being tortured.
2. Street Newz will give priority space to earth friendly, peace oriented, local community organizations and businesses that are not affiliated with any one political party.
3. Please email a copy of the constitution, mission statement, or mandate from your organization for editorial approval.

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1/4 page: \$60/ea or \$300 for 6 issues (non-profit: \$50/ea or \$250 for six)

1/2 page: \$100/ea or \$500 for 6 issues (non-profit: \$75/ea or \$375 for six)

Contact Janine: 250-413-3235 or streetnewz@islandnet.com

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